



Florida flip-flop

Urban Meyer

Gators coach takes indefinite leave after saying he'd resign

Back page



A look at the year's Top 10 AP news stories

Pages 3-5

STARS AND STRIPES

Volume 68, No. 255 ©SS 2009 J

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2009

ISSN 1549-3882 第三类准寄件物 零售每份1.25元 全年12.5元 邮费在內 零售每份1.25元 全年12.5元 邮费在內 零售每份1.25元 全年12.5元 邮费在內

stripes.com

50¢

Airport security under scrutiny

BY PAMELA HESS
AND CALVIN WOODWARD
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Obama administration promised Sunday to review security procedures at airports and the government's system for checking suspicious travelers after an alleged terrorist came close to destroying a jetliner.

An apparent malfunction in a device designed to detonate the high-explosive PETN may have been all that saved the 278 passengers and the crew aboard Northwest Flight 253 on Christmas Day.

Obama administration vows to review screening procedures, watch list rules

No undercover air marshal was on board, and passengers subdued the suspect, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, 23, of Nigeria.

Abdulmutallab was hospitalized with burns from the attack and was read an indictment filed Saturday in federal court in Detroit charging him with attempting to destroy or wreck an aircraft and placing a destructive device in a plane. He was re-

leased from the hospital Sunday to the custody of federal marshals, who would not reveal where he was being held.

Abdulmutallab was on a watch list, but not one that denied him passage by air into the U.S. His own father had discussed concerns about his radical religious views before the attack.

The White House said President Barack

Obama has told U.S. officials to maintain heightened airline security.

Obama made the comments during a briefing Sunday with his national security team after a second incident was reported aboard a flight arriving in Detroit.

Still, in appearances on Sunday talk shows, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said the traveling public "is very, very safe."

"This was one individual literally of thousands that fly and thousands of flights every year," Napolitano said.

SEE TERROR ON PAGE 9

Iraqi Shiites targeted on high holy day

BY SINAN SALAHEDDIN
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — A bomb killed five Shiite pilgrims in a procession in northeast Iraq on Sunday and blasts in Baghdad killed two more pilgrims as millions of people marched to commemorate the most important Shiite religious observance.

Pilgrims traveling to the southern holy city of Karbala have come under repeated attack during the 10-day religious ceremonies that culminated Sunday with huge processions.

Dozens of pilgrims have been killed and more than 150 wounded during the Ashoura observance by insurgents hoping to intensify sectarian violence that reached a peak in 2006 and 2007.

Security tightened around Karbala, where 25,000 additional security personnel deployed. Snipers watched from rooftops, and bomb detection dogs were used to search for explosives.

A roadside bomb in the town of Tuz Khormato struck worshippers Sunday morning, killing five and wounding 28, police and medical officials said.



AHMED AL-HUSSEINI/AP

Worshippers beat their chests Sunday in Karbala, Iraq, during the climax of the festival of Ashoura, when Shiite Muslims grieve for the seventh-century killing of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Imam Hussein. Ashoura is holiest day for Shiite Muslims.

SEE ASHOURA ON PAGE 7

QUOTE
OF THE DAY

"And I jumped to the suspect. I was thinking like, 'He's trying to blow up the plane.'"

—Jasper Schuringa, an Amsterdam resident on Northwest Airlines Flight 253, who said he leaped over several seats and on top of suspect Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab to detain him and extinguish the flames.

See story on Page 8

TOP CLICKS
ON STRIPES.COM

The most popular stories on our Web site:

1. NCIS squad is dedicated to solving cold homicide cases
2. Three U.S. teens cleared in Japan motorcycle crash case
3. Minimal fanfare at Misawa City mall opening
4. Tiny Estonia keen to make large contribution in Afghanistan fight
5. As the need for child care centers grows, base officials wonder who will staff them

COMING
TOMORROW

Education

Driver's ed cuts raise safety concerns

TODAY
IN STRIPES

Advice	20
American Roundup	16-17
Classified	22-23
Comics	18-20
Crossword	19
Faces	11
Health & Fitness	10
Horoscope	18
Letters/Opinion	14-15
Sports	23-32
Sudoku	18
TV listings	13
Weather	12

Misawa feels woes of winter driving

Area sees spike in car accidents

By T.D. FLACK
Stars and Stripes

MISAWA AIR BASE, Japan — Misawa has welcomed winter with a spike in traffic accidents, safety officials said.

Lt. Col. Aaron Steffens, chief of safety at the base in northern Japan, said residents have been involved in 24 collisions and mishaps between Dec. 15 and 21 — eight of them on Dec. 15. Fifteen of the accidents occurred off base, where the Japanese don't plow the snowy, icy roads, he said.

Steffens said only two minor injuries have resulted, thanks mainly to the fact that the majority of accidents happened in parking lots or at intersections.

Staff Sgt. Scott Winstead, a ground safety technician in the safety office, said the base nor-



T.D. FLACK/Stars and Stripes

Safety officials say there were no injuries suffered when the driver of this truck lost control and ended up in the ditch near the golf course last week on Misawa Air Base, Japan.

mally sees a lot of accidents with the first big snow.

Drivers "need to slow down," he said.

Steffens agreed, adding that

drivers must "drive for the conditions."

It hasn't been a promising start for the season, Steffens said, pointing out that the highest acci-

dent numbers are in January and February, an average of 35 and 38 respectively.

In an effort to lower those numbers, his office has created a program called the Slippery Weasel to give licensed drivers first-hand experience in how their cars will respond to snowy and icy road conditions.

Those who sign up for the program will attend a one-hour classroom session, followed by a behind-the-wheel lesson in a large parking lot on base.

Winstead said they'll get to slip and slide, while learning how to stop and steer.

Steffens said his office talked to officials at Spangdahlem Air Base in Germany, which runs an intensive, year-round course.

The first two courses are Jan. 9 and 10, and anyone interested can call the safety office at 226-3453.

E-mail T.D. Flack at: flacktp@pstrips.osd.mil

U.S. troops in Afghanistan testing British-style camo

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — British and American soldiers soon could be hard to tell apart if the U.S. Army adopts a camouflage pattern similar to one that the British have already picked out to conceal their troops in Afghanistan.

U.S. soldiers with 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment in eastern Afghanistan are wearing new uniforms featuring the "MultiCam" camouflage pattern as part of a trial conducted by the Army to determine the best way to help troops blend in with their environment.

Last week the British Ministry of Defence announced that its troops would soon start wearing a new uniform with a version of MultiCam dubbed the "Multi-Terrain Pattern."

Uniforms in the new pattern will be issued to troops with 4 Mechanized Brigade deploying

to Afghanistan in March. The uniforms will later be introduced across all three services, the ministry said in a statement posted on its Web site.

"This new camouflage will help our troops blend into different environments in Helmand province to stay hidden from the Taliban," British Defence Secretary Bob Ainsworth said in the statement. "Patrols take our troops through the Green Zone, scrubland, desert and arid stony environments and it is crucial that the camouflage can work across all of them."

The U.S. Army is testing MultiCam alongside a version of the digital Universal Camouflage Pattern already featured on the Army Combat Uniform.

Sgt. Michael McCormick, 23, of San Diego, said last week that he's wearing the new version of the digital uniform, which has "coyote brown" splotches, on patrols with 4th Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division out of Kandahar, Afghanistan.

"Patrols take our troops through the Green Zone, scrubland, desert and arid stony environments and it is crucial that the camouflage can work across all of them."

Bob Ainsworth
British Defence Secretary

But he said he prefers the MultiCam pattern that other soldiers are testing because it's not digital and therefore blends in better with Afghan terrain. He added that any new uniform should do away with the fabric fastener pockets and attachments that are on his ACUs.

"[The fabric fastener] gets dusty or dirty and it doesn't work anymore. You can't keep your sleeves or collar down and it's not tactical. If you have to adjust something during a mission it makes a loud noise," he said.

The prospect of being mistaken for one of his British counterparts doesn't faze McCormick.

"I've worked a lot with the Brits, especially on my last deployment to Afghanistan," he said. "A common [camouflage] scheme wouldn't be bad in any shape or form. It's not like the Afghans know the difference between British and American soldiers."

And a common uniform might provide a psychological advantage over the Taliban, who would be unable to use knowledge about a particular nation's standard operating procedures when planning attacks, he said.

E-mail Seth Robson at: robsons@estripes.osd.mil

This newspaper is authorized by the Department of Defense for members of the military services overseas. However, the contents of Stars and Stripes are unofficial, and are not to be considered as the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government. As a DOD newspaper, Stars and Stripes may be distributed through official channels and use appropriated funds for distribution to remote locations where overseas DOD personnel are located.

The appearance of advertising in this publication does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense or Stars and Stripes of the products or services advertised. Products or services advertised shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical handicap, political affiliation or any other nonmerit factor of the purchaser, user or patron.

UMUC
REACH YOUR GOALSINNOVATIVE COURSES HELP YOU
MOVE TOWARD SUCCESS.

Offering a broad range of cutting-edge classes, UMUC has earned a worldwide reputation for excellence as a comprehensive virtual university, also offering classes on the ground in U.S. military environments worldwide.

Contact your local UMUC Field Representative today, and find out why UMUC is the educational choice for adult students worldwide.

Certificate, Associate's and Bachelor's programs available.

Enroll now. Visit asia.umuc.edu/contacts
Spring Session 1 starts January 18



UMUC
University of Maryland University College

Copyright © 2009 University of Maryland University College

Twitter: umucasia

Facebook: University of Maryland University College Asia



YEAR IN REVIEW **09**

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS' TOP 10 NEWSMAKERS

THE ECONOMY

Despite a \$787 billion federal stimulus package, much of the U.S. economy continued to sputter throughout the year.



Recent La Salle University graduate Sean Christman of Westmont, N.J., attempts to hand out resumes to passing motorists in Philadelphia.

MATT ROURKE/AP

NO. 1 — ON THE REBOUND?

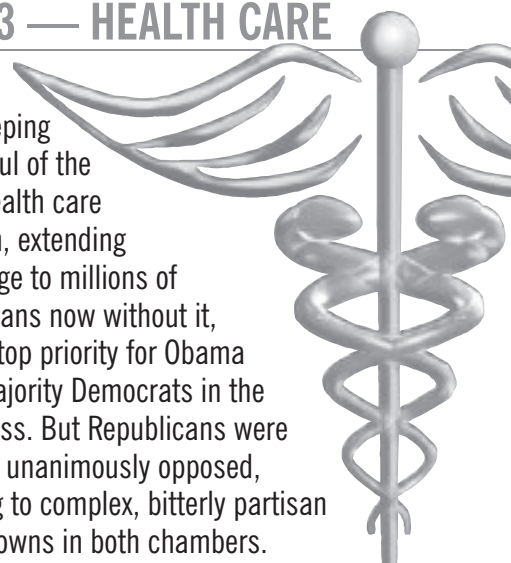
The jobless rate topped 10 percent, scores of banks failed, the federal deficit tripled to a record \$1.4 trillion, and stocks fell to their lowest levels since 1997 before rallying. Yet investment banks' profits surged, triggering public anger and efforts in Washington to crack down on Wall Street bonuses.

**NO. 2 — OBAMA'S INAUGURATION**

Inauguration Day in January was a moving moment for many Americans, as the nation's first black president took the oath of office. But Obama soon confronted the sobering realities of governing as he struggled to get the economy back on track and win support for his ambitious legislative priorities.

NO. 3 — HEALTH CARE

A sweeping overhaul of the U.S. health care system, extending coverage to millions of Americans now without it, was a top priority for Obama and majority Democrats in the Congress. But Republicans were almost unanimously opposed, leading to complex, bitterly partisan showdowns in both chambers.



THE TOP 10 STORIES FROM AROUND THE WORLD ACCORDING TO U.S. EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS VOTING IN THE ASSOCIATED PRESS' ANNUAL POLL

09 YEAR IN REVIEW

NO. 4 — THE AUTO INDUSTRY

It was an immensely challenging year for America's Big Three. GM and Chrysler filed for bankruptcy, GM's CEO was ousted by the government, and Chrysler was pressured into an alliance with Italy's Fiat. Ford avoided bankruptcy, but its sales fell sharply.



NO. 6 — AFGHANISTAN

Casualties on all sides mounted as U.S. forces, with their Afghan and NATO allies, battled the resilient Taliban. President Obama, after lengthy deliberations, opted to send 30,000 more troops. His decision was complicated by the disputed Afghan election, which prompted allegations of widespread fraud but resulted in Hamid Karzai taking office for a second term.

ON THE OUTSIDE LOOKING IN ...



Just missing the Top 10 was the confirmation of Sonia Sotomayor as the first Hispanic justice on the Supreme Court.



The war and political turmoil in Iraq was voted the No. 16 story, the first time since 2001 that Iraq was not in the Top 10.

NO. 5 — SWINE FLU

Swine flu struck tens of millions of people worldwide, worrying governments as supplies of vaccine failed to meet demand. In the United States, according to federal authorities, swine flu sickened an estimated 50 million people, hospitalized close to 200,000 and killed 10,000.



YEAR IN REVIEW 09

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS' TOP 10 NEWSMAKERS

NO. 7 — 'KING OF POP' DIES

Michael Jackson died at the age of 50, triggering grief and nostalgia around the world. His doctor became the focus of a homicide investigation after he admitted he administered propofol, a powerful anesthetic, to help the pop star sleep.



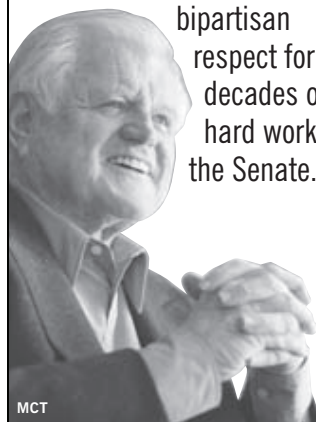
NO. 8 — THE FORT HOOD RAMPAGE

An Army psychiatrist, Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, was accused of killing 13 people at Fort Hood, a military base in Texas, before being seriously wounded by police gunfire. Investigations were launched to determine if authorities missed warning signs that might have prevented the rampage.



NO. 9 — EDWARD M. KENNEDY DIES

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, who carried on the family legacy after the deaths of his three older brothers, died of brain cancer after a distinctive political career filled with highs and lows. Though his own presidential aspirations were thwarted, he earned bipartisan respect for decades of hard work in the Senate.



NO. 10 — MIRACLE ON THE HUDSON

A US Airways passenger jet, both its engines disabled, made an emergency ditching in the Hudson River in New York, and all 155 on board survived in what was dubbed "The Miracle on the Hudson." The veteran pilot, Capt. Chesley "Sully" Sullenberger, was hailed as a hero for averting a disaster.

A US Airways passenger jet, both its engines disabled, made an emergency ditching in the Hudson River in New York, and all 155 on board survived in what was dubbed "The Miracle on the Hudson."

THE facebook TOP TEN

The results of Facebook voting closely resembled the AP members' choices; each Top 10 list had only two stories not on the other list.

Sotomayor's confirmation and Iran — the tensions related to its election and nuclear program — were in the Facebook Top 10 but not the members' Top 10.

The Fort Hood rampage and Afghanistan did not make the Facebook Top 10.

In both cases, several write-in votes were cast for a development that occurred too late to be included on the ballot — the scandal enveloping golfer Tiger Woods after he crashed his car outside his home early one morning and eventually confessed to marital infidelity.

No. 1	No. 2	No. 3	No. 4	No. 5	No. 6	No. 7	No. 8	No. 9	No. 10
Obama's inauguration	The U.S. economy	The death of Michael Jackson	The Miracle on the Hudson	Swine flu	Health care overhaul	The death of Edward Kennedy	Auto industry woes	Iran	Sotomayor joins Supreme Court

The Facebook voting, conducted on a nonscientific basis, was for entertainment purposes only and shouldn't be considered an accurate reflection of public opinion.

IN THE WORLD



This photo taken by an individual not employed by The Associated Press and obtained by the AP outside Iran shows an Iranian protester throwing a rock at police officers as their bikes are set on fire by other protesters during an anti-government demonstration in Tehran on Sunday. Reporters from foreign media organizations were barred from covering the event.

AP

Pakistan: Nuke attack planned by 5 U.S. men

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — Police are trying to determine whether five Americans detained in Pakistan had planned to attack a complex that houses nuclear power facilities.

The young Muslim men, who are from the Washington, D.C., area, were picked up in Pakistan earlier this month in a case that has spurred fears that Westerners are traveling to the South Asian country to join militant groups.

Pakistani police and government officials have made a series of escalating and, at times, seemingly contradictory allegations about the men's intentions, while U.S. officials have been far more cautious though they, too, are looking at charging the men.

A Pakistani government official alleged Saturday that the men had established contact with Taliban commanders and planned to attack sites in Pakistan. Earlier, however, local police accused the men of intending to fight in Afghanistan after meeting militant leaders.

The men had a map of Chashma Barrage, a complex that along with nuclear power facilities houses a water reservoir and other structures, said Javed Islam, a senior police official in the Sargodha area of Punjab province. He stressed the men were not carrying a specific map of any nuclear power plant but rather the whole of Chashma Barrage.

The detained men also had exchanged e-mails about the area, Islam said.

"We are also working to retrieve some of the deleted material in their computers," he said.

Pakistan has a nuclear weapons arsenal, but it also has nuclear power plants for civilian purposes.

Pakistani police plan to recommend that courts charge the five men with collecting and attempting to collect material to carry out terrorist activities in Pakistan, police official Nazir Ahmad told The Associated Press.

Officials in Pakistan and the U.S. have said they expected the men would eventually be deported back to the United States, but charging them in Pakistan could delay that process.

In an interview with The Associated Press on Saturday, Punjab province Law Minister Rana Sanaullah said the men had established contact with Taliban commanders.

The FBI, whose agents have been granted some access to the men, is looking into what potential charges they could face in the U.S. Possibilities include conspiracy to provide material support to a terrorist group.

The U.S. Embassy has declined to comment on the potential charges and would not say what efforts Washington was making to bring the men back.

Protests spread again in Tehran

By ALI AKBAR DAREINI

The Associated Press

TEHRAN, Iran — Iranian security forces fired on stone-throwing protesters in the center of the capital Sunday in one of the bloodiest confrontations in months, opposition Web sites and witnesses said. At least five people were killed.

Some accounts of the violence in Tehran were vivid and detailed, but they could not be independently confirmed because of government restrictions on media coverage. Police, who denied using firearms, said dozens of officers were injured and more than 300 protesters were

arrested.

France's Foreign Ministry said eight people may have been killed in the violent protests in Tehran. The ministry is criticizing violence against protesters and calling for a political solution to the growing crisis in Iran.

The dead included a nephew of opposition leader Mir Hossein Mousavi, according to Mousavi's Web site, Kalemeh.ir. The clashes were sure to deepen antagonism between the government and a reform movement that has shown resilience in the face of repeated crackdowns.

The street chaos coincided with commemorations of Shiite Islam's most important obser-

vance, Ashoura, fueling protesters' defiance with its message of sacrifice and dignity in the face of coercion.

Still, many demonstrators had not anticipated such harsh tactics by the authorities, despite police warnings of tougher action against any protests on the sacred day.

Amateur video footage purportedly from the center of Tehran showed an enraged crowd carrying away one casualty, chanting, "I'll kill, I'll kill the one who killed my brother." In several locations, demonstrators confronted security forces, hurling stones and setting their motorcycles, cars and vans ablaze, according to video footage and pro-reform

Web sites.

Protesters tried to cut off roads with burning barricades. One police officer was photographed with blood streaming down his face after he was set upon by the crowd.

Clashes also broke out in Isfahan and Najafabad in central Iran and Shiraz in the south, the pro-reform Rah-e-Sabz Web site said.

The protests began with thousands of opposition supporters chanting "Death to the dictator," a reference to hard-line President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, as they marched in defiance of official warnings of a harsh crackdown on any demonstrations coinciding with Ashoura.

Suicide blast kills 5 Shiites

By ASIF SHAHZAD

The Associated Press

ISLAMABAD — A suicide bomber detonated his explosives outside a large gathering of Shiite Muslims in the capital of Pakistan-controlled Kashmir on Sunday, killing five people and wounding 80, said police.

The attacker blew himself up as police tried to search him at a checkpoint set up outside the event — part of the annual commemorations of the seventh century death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson — said police officer Tahir Qayum. The five killed included two police, he said.

Most of the 80 injured were Shiites attending the gathering in Muzaffarabad that attracted about 1,000 people, police officer Sardar Ilyas said. Ten of the wounded were in critical condition, he said.

Minority Shiites in Pakistan have often been targeted by radical Sunnis during simi-

lar tributes, held every year during the Islamic holy month of Muharram. But Ilyas said there was no history of such sectarian clashes in Muzaffarabad.

Authorities called in the army after the attack to restore order, said Kafayat Hussain, a local minister.

Pakistan has been plagued by rising violence since the military launched a large ground offensive in mid-October in the militant stronghold of South Waziristan in the country's lawless tribal area near the Afghan border.

Three bombs planted in a government official's house in another tribal area exploded Sunday, killing him along with his wife and five children in an attack police said was retaliation for military operations targeting Taliban. The military has stepped up airstrikes in Kurram where many militants fled following the South Waziristan offensive.



MUHAMMED MUHEISEN/AP

A Pakistani Shiite Muslim woman prays during a Muharram procession in Islamabad on Sunday. Five people were killed by a suicide bomber at a gathering of Shiites in Muzaffarabad on Sunday.



FARZANA WAHIDY/AP

An Afghan girl wears a headband that reads "Oh martyr Hussein" during Ashoura on Sunday in Kabul.

Ashoura: Ritual celebrates martyr

ASHOURA, FROM PAGE 1

A police official said the Minister for Youth and Sports, Jassim Mohammed Jaafar, was among those in the targeted procession, but was unharmed. One of his bodyguards and a police captain were among the dead.

In western Baghdad, a roadside bomb targeted a minibus carrying pilgrims, killing one and injuring six, another police official said. The casualties were confirmed by a medical official.

Another pilgrim was killed in southern Baghdad late Saturday when a bomb struck a procession, police said. Ten people were injured.

The police and medical officials spoke on the condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information to the media.

Sunday's commemorations marked the climax of Ashoura, the yearly mourning period in which Shiite Muslims remember the seventh-century death of the Prophet Muhammad's grandson, Imam Hussein, in a battle against overwhelming odds in the central city of Karbala.

To commemorate his death, black-clad pilgrims marched to Karbala in long processions, waving green flags and chanting religious slogans.

They marched past crowds of onlookers toward Imam Hussein's shrine, beating themselves around the chest, back and head with fists, chains and swords.

Some wore white robes that were stained with their own blood.

Ashoura processions were banned under former dictator Saddam Hussein's Sunni-dominated regime.

Publicly marking the holiday — despite the threat of attacks — has become a demonstration of strength for Shiites.

Othman al-Ghanimi, the provincial police chief in charge of Karbala, said he was expecting up to 3 million visitors, including pilgrims from other countries such as Iran, Bahrain and Kuwait.

Iraqi authorities had already



MOHAMMED ZAATARI/AP

A Lebanese Shiite woman bleeds from the head from self-inflicted wounds Sunday during Ashoura in the southern market town of Nabatiyeh, Lebanon.

thwarted some attempted attacks, and American forces provided explosives-detecting equipment and were offering air support, al-Ghanimi said.

The government increased security after coming under heavy criticism for failing to prevent a series of devastating bombs in the

Iraqi capital. It is eager to demonstrate that the withdrawal of American forces will not leave a security vacuum for insurgents to exploit.

Ashoura also was being commemorated in other Muslim countries such as Afghanistan, Iran and Lebanon.

Turnout sparse as Hamas marks '08 war in Gaza

The Associated Press

JEBALIYA, Gaza Strip — Hamas loyalists marked the one-year anniversary of Israel's devastating war against Gaza's Islamic militant rulers with defiant protests and a moment of silence on Sunday — even as most of the territory's residents ignored commemoration events and some even criticized the militant group for not attending to their needs.

The sparse turnout appeared to be an informal vote of discontent by Gaza residents over Hamas' attempt to turn the day into a victory march for the militant group.

Around 3,000 Hamas supporters milled around a square in the northern Gaza town of Jebaliya, waving their group's green flags and holding up pictures of family members slain in the Israeli offensive that began on Dec. 27, 2008. Some 1,400 Palestin-

ians were killed, including hundreds of civilians, along with 13 Israelis.

"We are the victors! We are the fighters! We are the steadfast!" thundered senior Hamas leader Khalil al-Haya.

But a year later, al-Haya's bold calls rang hollow. After days of heavy advertising through Hamas Web sites, text messages and radio announcements, only a trickle of Hamas loyalists turned up to a commemoration in the heavily damaged legislative building in downtown Gaza City, the territory's largest urban area.

Cars whizzed by and pedestrians kept walking, ignoring a siren meant to call for a minute's silence.

"I wish they had commemorated the war by opening a factory. That would have been better than this," said Gaza resident Rami Mohammed, 30.

2 killed in mystery blast in Lebanon

By ZEINA KARAM

The Associated Press

BEIRUT — Hamas said Sunday that two members were killed in a mysterious late-night blast, and the Palestinian militant group said it was still trying to determine who was behind the attack.

Lebanon's state-run news agency said Saturday's explosion was caused by three bombs tied to each other and placed under a car believed to belong to a Hamas official.

The blast took place near Hamas offices south of Beirut.

Hamas, which governs the Gaza Strip but has exiled leaders in Lebanon and Syria, identified the men as Basil Juma, 29, and Hassan Hadad, 21.

The statement did not specify the men's role in the group, but it referred to them as "fighters" — usually a reference to low-level members of the group's armed wing.

YES

Click today...cash tomorrow®
www.militaryloans.com



www.marriagebyproxy.com

Get Legally Married While Deployed

- USA Marriage Certificate
- Recognized By Military
- No Travel Required
- Completed In 3 Weeks
- Personalized Service
- Do The Right Thing

Contact Sam or Barbara

Call: 001-610-644-2630

Toll Free: 877-482-2406

shmulick@yahoo.com

SHOW YOUR LOVE!
SEND A GIANT TEDDY BEAR
Up to 8-FEET Tall
Arrived in a PERSONALIZED BOX!

6 FEET TALL ROSE
FREE Shipping & H&A

SAVE 10% Use Coupon Code: H&A521

3 FEET TALL Army/ACU Bear

BigPlush.com
500+ Styles of Giant Stuffed Animals

Phone: 800-216-9401
CUL 888-2700
www.BigPlush.com

IN THE STATES

Security at airports tightens once more

Sudden new rules, long lines return for air travelers

By JOSHUA FREED
AND JOAN LOWY
The Associated Press

Extra pat-downs before boarding. No getting up for the last hour of the flight. More bomb-sniffing dogs. Airports worldwide tightened security a day after a passenger tried to light some kind of explosive on a flight into Detroit.

The Transportation Security Administration wouldn't say exactly what it was doing differently on Saturday. It didn't need to.

Passengers getting off flights from overseas reported being told that they couldn't get out of their seat for the last hour of their flight. Air Canada also said that during the last hour passengers won't be allowed access to carry-on baggage or to have any items on their laps.

The extra vigilance came after a man flying from Nigeria to Amsterdam to the U.S. tried to ignite a device just before the plane landed in Detroit on Friday.

The TSA security directive applied to U.S.-bound flights from overseas, according to a transportation security official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The official said passengers traveling internationally could see increased screening at gates and when they check bags, as well as other measures on flights such as stowing carry-ons and personal items before the plane lands.

Flight attendants on at least one domestic flight informed passengers of similar rules. Passengers on a flight from New York to Tampa on Saturday morning were told they must remain in their seats and couldn't have items in their laps, including laptops and pillows.

"They went through everything in your bags, went through the pockets of your coat," Sarabjit Dhillon, 35, of Sterling Heights, Mich., was returning to Detroit from a visit to India. Even her three young children got a pat-down.

"The extra measures apply worldwide on all flights to the U.S. as of now and for an indefinite period," said Judith Sluiter, spokeswoman for the Dutch National Coordinator for Counterterrorism. Security procedures for other flights remained unchanged, she said.



SARAH L. VOISIN/The Washington Post



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP



JASON REDMOND/AP

Passengers' fear, heroism aboard plane

By PETER SLEVIN AND
MICHAEL D. SHEAR
The Washington Post

DETROIT — Passengers on Northwest Airlines Flight 253 knew something was very wrong when they saw flight attendants running for fire extinguishers.

Then they smelled the smoke.

"People were just running and they were scared," passenger Veena Saigal said. "They were running towards the center of the plane, running to get away from the flames." In a minute or so — "It seemed like a long time," she said — the fire was out.

Passengers described a chaotic scene as people on the Christmas Day flight lunged to subdue the suspect, Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab, as flames and smoke poured from beneath his seat.

Jasper Schuringa, an Amsterdam resident sitting on the right side of the plane, said he quickly leaped over several seats and on top of Abdulmutallab to detain him and extinguish the flames.

In an interview on CNN, Schuringa displayed bandages on his right hand as he described the scene inside the plane: screaming passengers, pillows on fire and a quick-thinking crew.

"When I saw the suspect, that he was getting on fire, I freaked, of course, and without any hesitation I just jumped over all the seats," Schuringa said. "And I jumped to the suspect. I was thinking like, he's trying to blow up the plane. I was trying to search his body for any explosives. I took some kind of object that was already melting and smoking out of him."

Crewmembers led Abdulmutallab to the first-class section and searched and detained him until the plane landed.

The long transatlantic flight had been uneventful, passengers said, with Abdulmutallab drawing no attention to himself. That changed around noon as pilots began descending toward a landing.

Sources said Abdulmutallab appears to have used a syringe to mix a chemical with some powder on his leg to start a fire. Schuringa said he screamed for water as he took a burning, melting object that Abdulmutallab had hidden in his pants.

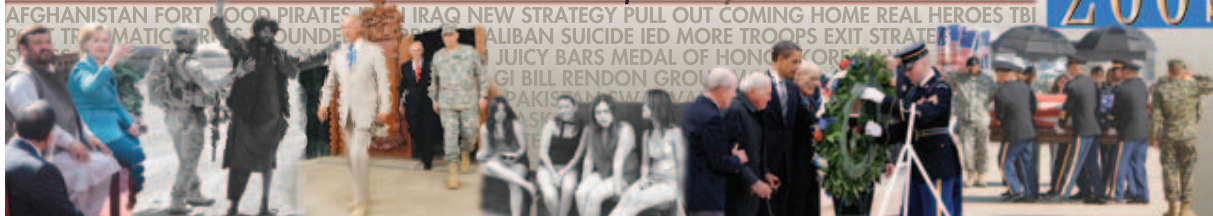
Don't miss Stars and Stripes year in review

2009

SPORTS

See AP's pick for top sports stories on Wednesday, December 30

STARS AND STRIPES



Terror: Bomb attempt may lead to security revisions

TERROR, FROM PAGE 1

"And he was stopped before any damage could be done. I think the important thing to recognize here is that once this incident occurred, everything happened that should have."

Even so, airport security and intelligence played no role in thwarting the plot.

Abdulmutallab was carrying PETN, also known as pentaerythritol, the same material convicted shoe bomber Richard Reid used when he tried to destroy a trans-Atlantic flight in 2001 with explosives hidden in his shoes.

Abdulmutallab was on a "generic" terrorist watch list, which includes more than half a million names, but was not elevated to a no-fly list or even designated for additional security searches, Napolitano said. That would have required "specific, credible, derogatory information," she said.

"We did not have the kind of information that under the current rules would elevate him," she said.

Napolitano said the Obama administration is considering changing those rules.

Despite being on the broad terrorist watch list, Abdulmutallab, who comes from a prominent and wealthy Nigerian family, had a multiple-entry U.S. visa. It was issued last year. U.S. officials say he came to the attention of America intelligence in November when his father expressed



Will Willow, left, of the U.S. Marshals Service and Sgt. Michael Dillard of the University of Michigan hospital address the media outside the hospital in Ann Arbor, Mich., on Saturday. Umar Farouk Abdulmutallab was being treated for burns at the hospital after a device containing a high explosive attached to his body on Flight 253 from Amsterdam was ignited.

CARLOS OSORIO/AP

concerns to the U.S. Embassy in Nigeria about his son's extremist views.

Napolitano said Abdulmutallab was properly screened before getting on the flight to Detroit from Amsterdam.

The administration is also investigating aviation detection systems to see how the alleged

attacker managed to get on board the Northwest flight in Amsterdam with explosive materials, White House spokesman Robert Gibbs said.

No other flights were known to have been targeted. However, Gibbs said federal authorities took precautionary steps "to assume and plan for the very worst."

Napolitano said there is no indication yet Abdulmutallab is part of a larger terrorist plot, although his possible ties to al-Qaida are still under investigation.

Meanwhile Sunday, a second Nigerian man was taken into custody aboard a jetliner in Detroit after locking himself in the airliner's bathroom.

A law enforcement official said the incident took place aboard the same Northwest flight that was attacked on Christmas Day. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because the incident was ongoing.

The official said the man posed no security risk to the plane.

The official said the passenger was taken into custody after becoming verbally disruptive on landing. Subsequent interviews by investigators determined he was a businessman who became ill during the flight.

Delta Air Lines spokeswoman Susan Elliott said crewmembers requested that security remove the man from Flight 253 after he became disruptive. The remaining 255 passengers got off safely, she said.

"The pilot requested emergency assistance upon arrival," airport spokesman Scott Wintner said.

Security and airline personnel are on edge since the attempted terror attack on Christmas Day, and the law enforcement official said that lesser incidents had been reported on other flights arriving in Detroit, but the incident with the Nigerian man had sparked the most concern.

The United States is reviewing what security measures were used in Amsterdam where he boarded the flight.

Congress is preparing to hold hearings on what happened and whether rules need to be changed.

Drug money seizures rise on Ariz. border

\$4.9M intercepted at checkpoints this year

The Associated Press

PHOENIX — Seizures of money bound mostly for Mexico's violent drug cartels more than quadrupled this year on the Arizona border, and government officials are crediting beefed-up screening at checkpoints.

Inspectors intercepted \$1.1 million heading into Mexico in fiscal 2008. This year, inspectors netted \$4.9 million.

Brian Levin, a Customs and Border Protection spokesman, said the seizures reflect a new focus in the smuggling clampdown and the U.S. efforts to help Mexico fight its bloody drug war.

The amount confiscated is just a fraction of the millions of dollars in drug- and human-smuggling profits funneled back to Mexican syndicates each year.

Until this year, U.S. inspections on the border primarily targeted incoming traffic from Mexico while ignoring vehicles headed south.

But federal authorities intensified outbound screening amid reports a year ago that weapons smuggled from the United States were providing most of the firepower in Mexico's drug wars.

Authorities estimated that 90 percent of the guns used in police assassinations and cartel bloodshed originated in the United

States.

Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano assigned an additional \$400 million to border security, much of it for screening outbound traffic. That money went for more inspectors, X-ray machines and other gear.

Federal law requires that cash transactions or shipments of more than \$10,000 must be declared, whether in the form of currency or wire transfers.

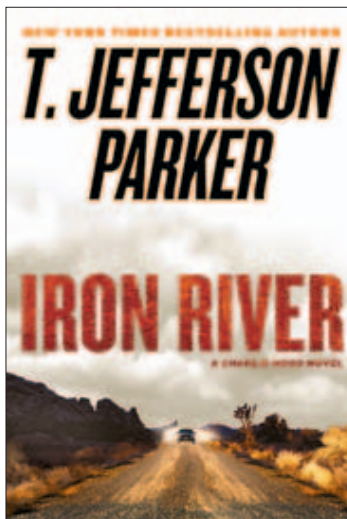
The regulation was designed to thwart cartel efforts to move illicit funds through banks, and U.S. investigators have cracked down on electronic transfers.

As a complement to the increased inspections on the U.S. side of the border, Mexican authorities have launched their own screening system to catch contraband arriving from the United States.

Under a program known by its Spanish acronym, SIAVE, checkpoints are under construction in Sonora and all along the border.

Cameras will record the license plate, model and weight of every passing vehicle while also capturing images of passengers. Suspicious cars and trucks will be subject to human inspection.

WIN YOUR SIGNED COPY!



Stripes Book Club and Dutton, a member of Penguin Group (USA) Inc., are proud to offer you a chance to win a signed copy of New York Times Bestselling Author and Three Time Edgar Award-Winner T. Jefferson Parker's IRON RIVER.

T. Jefferson Parker ranks among the very top tier of contemporary crime writers and his new series has received the best reviews of his already stellar career.

This time around, Los Angeles County sheriff's deputy Charlie Hood is running the California-Mexico border with the AITF, searching for the iron river—the massive and illegal flow of handguns and automatic weapons that fuels the bloody cartel wars south of the border. Gunrunners by nature aren't exactly ethical, but the lengths they'll go to, and the innocent lives they'll risk are shocking even to Hood. Most shocking of all is the close personal connection Hood finds wrapped up in the events south of the border—a connection that shakes him to his core.

"Some of the finest writing you'll ever read." —Chicago Sun Times

"A pro, that's what T. Jefferson Parker is. His plots are intricate, keenly crafted, clearly mapped; his characters complicated, yet consistent; Parker is an ace." —San Diego Union-Tribune

"Defi characterization and hard-boiled action played out against smartly detailed Southern Californian landscapes." —Los Angeles Times

"If it's a just world, T. Jefferson Parker will be more famous than Raymond Chandler or Dashiell Hammett, because he does so much more with the thriller format." —Carolyn See

Stars and Stripes is giving away 10 signed copies of "IRON RIVER" to our lucky readers. Just go to Stripes.com to enter and win.



Stripes Book Club



Penguin Group (USA)

Must be at least 18 years old and a U.S. Government ID cardholder to enter and win. No purchase necessary. All entries must be received by midnight on December 31, 2009. See official rules on Stripes.com.

HEALTH & FITNESS

THE MORNING AFTER

Hydration is key to preventing that New Year's Day hangover

By WARREN PEACE
Stars and Stripes

STUTTGART, Germany — For many, 2010 will begin with an Internet search for a hangover cure.

Of course, the searches will result in countless remedies promising to save the sufferer.

But before you suck down a mixture of hot sauce and raw egg, heed this warning: The only real cure is time.

"Our findings show that no compelling evidence exists to suggest that any complementary or conventional intervention is effective for treating or preventing the alcohol hangover," wrote a team of researchers with the British Medical Journal in a 2005 study, titled "Interventions for preventing or treating alcohol hangover: systematic review of randomized controlled trials."

"The most effective way to avoid the symptoms of alcohol induced hangover is thus to practice abstinence or moderation," the study says.

But experts don't dismiss the possibility of preventing a hangover, or alleviating its symptoms.

So, if you plan to drink, the first thing to know is what alcohol does to cause a hangover.

Before you suck down a mixture of hot sauce and raw egg, heed this warning: The only real cure for a hangover is time.

Ethanol, the type of alcohol in beverages, is a known diuretic. It causes people to make more trips to the restroom, resulting in dehydration.

This is why coffee or other caffeinated drinks are bad ideas for hangover remedies, said Dr. Loretta Mueller,

director of the University Headache Center at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey, in a news release. They may help with the lethar-

gic feeling or temporarily reduce headaches, but caffeine is also a diuretic and will only further dehydrate the body.

Water and sports drinks are good sources of rehydration, and you may be able to prevent a hangover headache by drinking extra water before going to bed, Mueller said.

Experts say drinking a glass of water between alcoholic beverages may prevent dehydration while also policing your consumption.

Alcohol also affects the liver's ability to produce glucose, the sugar used by every cell in the human body for energy, wrote neurologists Dr. Christine Lay and Dr. Christina Sun, in "Headache," the journal of the American Headache Society.

Fruit juices simultaneously help the body replace the glucose it has lost due to alcohol use and help prevent dehydration.

The journal also suggested eating greasy foods before a night of drinking. The grease will coat the stomach and

slow absorption of alcohol. The body also turns the carbohydrates contained in most greasy foods into sugar, which the alcohol causes the body to lose.

None of these suggestions will have any effect once a hangover kicks in. For this, all you can do is minimize the suffering and wait it out.

Experts suggest taking an over-the-counter painkiller containing acetaminophen or ibuprofen the morning after the big night. Contrary to popular myths, taking these drugs before going to bed will not do anything to prevent a hangover. These remedies are only effective for about four hours and their effects will have worn off long before you wake up.

To sum it up: Abstinence is the only guaranteed way to prevent a hangover.

But if you lose count during the night, try to remember to drink plenty of non-alcoholic fluids ... and have painkillers ready for the morning.

E-mail Warren Peace at: peacew@estripes.osd.mil

PHOTO ILLUSTRATION
BY LIESL GOECKER/
Stars and Stripes



Learn from Wednesday's STARS AND STRIPES.

Education

Covering the A to Z in education trends, news and analysis each week on Wednesdays. Find out what you don't think you have time to learn!



FACES

Singular style

In latest project, Ford swaps fashion for film

Fashion designer Tom Ford has made a seamless transition to filmmaker with "A Single Man," the soulful, immaculately styled story of a grieving college professor in 1960s California.

The ultra-confident Ford never doubted his abilities — though he admits plenty of other people did.

"It's funny, because everyone was so supportive," Ford said. "And now that I've made the film, quite a few people have said to me, 'Isn't it nice you did that when everyone was laughing at you?'"

They're not laughing now.

"A Single Man" has earned strong reviews — it opened widely stateside on Christmas Day — and recently received Golden Globe nominations for its score and the performances of Julianne Moore and Colin Firth.

Firth won the best-actor prize at the Venice Film Festival for his performance as George Falconer, a gay Englishman in Los Angeles mourning the death of his longtime lover in a car accident.

Ford — who directed, co-wrote and co-produced the film — has been praised for his subtle adaptation of Christopher Isherwood's novel, which recounts a day in George's life through interior monologue.

The film adds a dash of plot and gallons of visual flair.

Unable to see a future without his partner, Jim (Matthew Goode), George resolves to end it all. He gets a gun and starts to set his affairs in order.

Along the way, he encounters his best friend, Charley (Julianne Moore, sporting a wardrobe to die for), and Kenny (Nicholas Hoult, all grown up since he played the

boy in "About a Boy"), a young student who takes a slightly stalkerish interest in George.

The Texas-born Ford has never lacked ambition. Now 48, he transformed luxury brand Gucci in the 1990s before founding his own Tom Ford label. Filmmaking seemed like a small step.

"I've just never let the thought of failure stop me when there was something I felt that I wanted to do," he said. "I wanted to make a film. And I want to make another and another and another."

"I've just never let the thought of failure stop me when there was something I felt that I wanted to do. I wanted to make a film. And I want to make another and another and another."

— Tom Ford, film director and fashion designer

"A Single Man" is the work of a film fanatic, a love letter to cinema. George's monochrome life bursts into Technicolor when he makes contact with other people.

The movie's stylish surface offers all you would expect from a fashionista's film: precise period detail, handsome actors and gorgeous outfits that capture the early 1960s in all their sartorial glory, from pin-sharp suits to pink mohair sweaters.

"I don't know how to help myself," laughed Ford. "People said to me afterwards, 'Everyone's so beautiful.' And I thought, 'They are?' It wasn't anything that occurred to me."

"It's kind of enhanced reality. You're seeing the world through the eyes of a man who thinks he's leaving, and everything becomes hyper-beautiful to him."

Ford says filmmaking is "the closest thing to God we get to be."

"I created that universe; it's forever sealed in that little bubble. A hundred years from now, all the actors will be dead, I'll be dead — but you'll still be able to pop it in and laugh, cry, smile. It will be alive. It's just amazing."

— Jill Lawless/The Associated Press

Fashion designer Tom Ford turns a corner in his career by directing "A Single Man."

AP



Wireless Flash

DIDDY JUST SAYS NO

Music mogul Diddy prefers to party in Europe because there are fewer drugs abroad. He says Americans get too wild at his U.S. parties, whereas overseas, "there's a balance." Says Diddy: "There's not a bunch of crackheads walking around Paris. Or crystal meth addicts. We take drugs to another level."

— Wireless Flash



AP

Charlie Sheen spends Christmas Day in jail

ASPEN, Colo. — Charlie Sheen spent the better part of Christmas Day in a Colorado jail cell after being arrested on domestic violence allegations.

The 44-year-old actor was taken into custody Friday morning by officers responding to a 911 call from a house in a ski resort town about 200 miles west of Denver.

An ambulance went to the house, but the accuser was not taken to the hospital.

Sheen, the star of CBS' "Two and a Half Men," was taken to the Pitkin County jail and booked for investigation of second-degree assault and menacing, both felonies, along with criminal mischief, a misdemeanor, Aspen police spokeswoman Stephanie Dasaro said.

He was released in the late afternoon after posting \$8,500 bond and being advised by a county judge on the conditions of his release, she said. Dasaro declined to name Sheen's

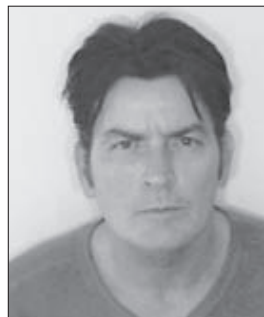
accuser, citing a department policy prohibiting the identification of potential victims in domestic violence cases.

Aspen attorney Richard Cummins said Friday that he was representing Sheen in the case. He declined to name Sheen's accuser or discuss details, but he cautioned against any rush to judgment.

"I think at the end of the day it will be much ado about nothing," Cummins said. "I don't think there's any criminality about what went on." Cummins said a court date was set for Feb. 8.

Sheen is married to Brooke Mueller Sheen, a real estate investor who gave birth to the couple's first children, twin boys, in March. They married in May 2008 following Sheen's bitter divorce and custody battle with actress Denise Richards.

— The Associated Press



Charlie Sheen's Aspen Police Department booking photo

Winter weather raises flooding concerns

Delays, dangerous conditions stretch across the U.S.

By **TIMBERLY ROSS**
The Associated Press

OMAHA, Neb. — Snowstorms and rainstorms that have battered much of the country for days have started subsiding, leaving behind concerns about flooding in some areas.

Storms from Texas to the Upper Midwest dumped 23.9 inches of snow in Grand Forks, N.D., and 18 inches near Norfolk, Neb. In the East, higher temperatures and rains have started melting and washing away last week's record-setting snowfalls, threatening the region with flooding.

The National Weather Service also issued flood warnings for parts of the South and Midwest, and winter weather advisories were in effect in sections of Ne-

braska, Illinois, Indiana and Michigan through Sunday.

A woman and her teenage daughter in Middletown, Pa., a suburb of Philadelphia, were rescued from a rain-swollen creek after their SUV went off the road Saturday. Rescue workers found the 14-year-old clinging to a log; her mother was trapped in the vehicle.

Authorities in southeast Missouri were searching for a woman who washed away in a ditch on Christmas Eve as heavy rains showered the region.

Snow and ice in Chicago along with rain on the East Coast canceled or delayed more than 450 flights Saturday.

Shannon Fullmer drove two hours from his home in Freeport, Ill., to Chicago's O'Hare Interna-

tional Airport on Saturday to pick up his 12-year-old son, but the flight from New Jersey was delayed more than three hours.

Fullmer said he would wait "as long as I have to."

"It doesn't do any good to get angry," he said.

A few dozen flights were delayed and a few canceled Saturday afternoon in southern Wisconsin. Three to five inches of snow was expected by Sunday morning.

In South Dakota, state troopers assisted 182 people who were stranded in their vehicles or needed help getting through snowy roads, Col. Dan Mosteller said.

Winter weather has been blamed for more than 20 deaths across the country in the past week.



NATI HARNIK/AP

Jacob Longwell, left, and Josh Peterson try to dig a car out of a snowdrift, in Omaha, Neb., on Saturday. Treacherous weather that has plagued much of the country for days stranded road and air travelers Saturday and Sunday trying to get home after Christmas.

WEATHER OUTLOOK

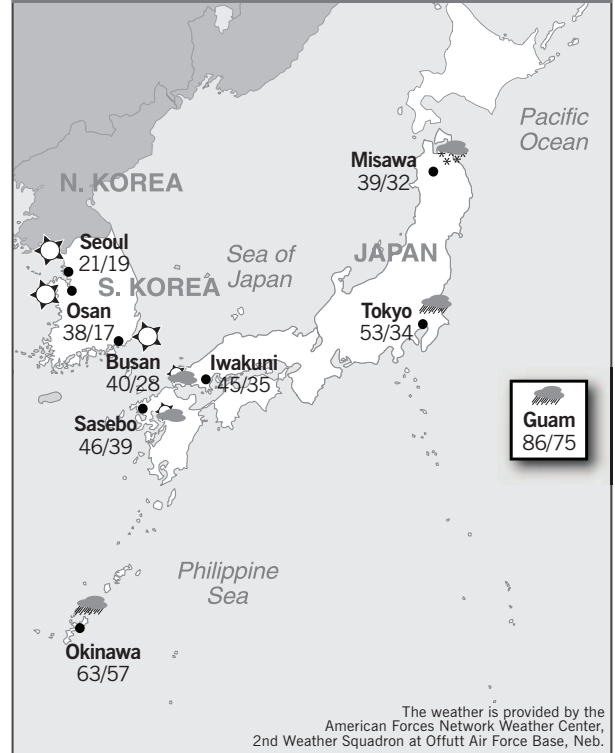
Monday's U.S. temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Abilene, Tex	45	30	PCldy	Detroit	32	16	Snow	Macon	50	27	Clr
Akron, Ohio	28	15	Cldy	Duluth	18	03	Snow	Madison	27	03	Snow
Albany, N.Y.	35	11	Snow	El Paso	45	30	PCldy	Medford	39	30	Cldy
Albuquerque	39	25	Cldy	Elkins	27	16	Snow	Memphis	42	28	Clr
Allentown, Pa.	37	20	Cldy	Erie	31	20	Snow	Miami Beach	77	54	PCldy
Amarillo	42	25	PCldy	Eugene	40	30	Cldy	Midland-Odessa	44	26	Cldy
Anchorage	31	24	Cldy	Evansville	37	20	Cldy	Milwaukee	27	11	Snow
Asheville	37	21	PCldy	Fairbanks	02	13	Clr	Mpls-St Paul	21	02	PCldy
Atlanta	45	26	Clr	Fargo	05	15	Clr	Missoula	24	13	Cldy
Atlantic City	43	28	Cldy	Flagstaff	31	16	Cldy	Mobile	51	27	Clr
Austin	55	35	Cldy	Flint	30	13	Snow	Montgomery	45	24	Clr
Baltimore	41	24	PCldy	Fort Smith	39	21	PCldy	Nashville	39	26	PCldy
Baton Rouge	51	29	Clr	Fort Wayne	27	14	Cldy	New Orleans	52	35	Clr
Billings	28	12	Clr	Fresno	55	40	Cldy	New York City	40	20	Cldy
Birmingham	41	27	Clr	Goodland	34	09	Clr	Newark	40	21	Cldy
Bismarck	18	02	PCldy	Grand Junction	28	02	Cldy	Norfolk, Va.	46	30	PCldy
Boise	31	18	Cldy	Grand Rapids	29	16	Snow	North Platte	29	02	Clr
Boston	40	20	Rain	Great Falls	33	19	PCldy	Oklahoma City	41	18	Clr
Bridgeport	41	21	Snow	Green Bay	23	05	Snow	Omaha	21	05	PCldy
Brownsville	61	47	Cldy	Greensboro, N.C.	41	25	PCldy	Orlando	68	40	Cldy
Buffalo	29	13	Snow	Harrisburg	36	24	Cldy	Paducah	37	21	PCldy
Burlington, Vt.	31	09	Snow	Hartford Spgfld	39	17	Snow	Pendleton	32	21	Cldy
Caribou, Maine	29	17	Cldy	Helena	23	03	PCldy	Peoria	27	04	Cldy
Casper	26	06	PCldy	Honolulu	80	68	Clr	Philadelphia	41	27	Cldy
Charleston, S.C.	54	28	Clr	Houston	51	35	PCldy	Phoenix	61	44	Cldy
Charleston, W.Va.	35	22	Cldy	Huntsville	41	25	Clr	Pittsburgh	28	19	Cldy
Charlotte, N.C.	45	24	Clr	Indianapolis	28	15	Snow	Pocatello	25	11	Cldy
Chattanooga	43	25	PCldy	Jackson, Miss.	47	27	Clr	Portland, Maine	40	19	Snow
Cheyenne	33	11	PCldy	Jacksonville	59	32	PCldy	Portland, Ore.	40	31	Cldy
Chicago	26	06	Snow	Juneau	35	27	Snow	Providence	38	20	Rain
Cincinnati	30	19	Cldy	Kansas City	27	03	PCldy	Pueblo	40	09	PCldy
Cleveland	30	20	Snow	Key West	76	63	Cldy	Raleigh-Durham	44	26	PCldy
Colorado Springs	36	14	PCldy	Knoxville	41	23	PCldy	Rapid City	29	04	Clr
Columbia, S.C.	52	25	Clr	Lake Charles	49	30	PCldy	Reno	34	16	Cldy
Columbus, Ga.	49	27	Clr	Lansing	29	14	Snow	Richmond	44	24	PCldy
Columbus, Ohio	29	20	Cldy	Las Vegas	52	36	Cldy	Roanoke	38	25	PCldy
Concord, N.H.	37	16	Snow	Lexington	31	20	Cldy	Rochester	30	12	Snow
Corpus Christi	53	43	Cldy	Lincoln	55	07	Clr	Rockford	25	01	Snow
Dallas-Ft Worth	46	31	PCldy	Little Rock	43	26	PCldy	Sacramento	53	37	PCldy
Dayton	27	18	Cldy	Los Angeles	70	47	Cldy	St Louis	32	17	PCldy
Daytona Beach	66	37	Cldy	Louisville	35	23	Cldy	St Petersburg	65	46	Clr
Denver	33	13	PCldy	Lubbock	42	22	Cldy	St Thomas	85	75	Clr
								Salem, Ore.	41	31	Cldy

Sunday's global temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Amsterdam	42	34	rn	Bermuda	64	60	pc	Dhaka	75	58	clr
Athens	68	57	pc	Bogota	68	46	pc	Dili	88	77	clr
Auckland	73	59	pc	Brasilia	83	66	pc	Dubai	76	67	rn
Baghdad	69	56	clr	Brisbane	83	73	rn	Dublin	45	30	rn
Ba	71	52	pc	Brussels	44	34	clr	Frankfurt	41	26	clr
Bahrain	71	61	clr	Bucharest	45	27	rn	Geneva	35	23	pc
Bangkok	90	74	pc	Budapest	46	28	clr	Guatemala	77	57	clr
Barbados	86	77	clr	Buenos Aires	79	71	rn	Hanoi	75	66	rn
Barcelona	51	47	rn	Cairo	73	57	clr	Harare	84	62	pc
Beijing	22	6	pc	Calgary	31	2	clr	Havana	78	64	pc
Beirut	68	56	pc	Caracas	87	77	pc	Helsinki	23	17	sn
Belgrade	50	42	pc	Colombo	87	73	rn	Hong Kong	70	62	pc
Berlin	42	35	pc	Copenhagen	41	33	sn	Islamabad	68	35	clr
				Dhahran	75	55	pc	Istanbul	62	56	pc
								Jakarta	87	76	rn
								Jerusalem	68	50	pc
								Johannesburg	79	58	rn
								Kabul	53	26	pc
								Kiev	41	36	rn
								Kuala Lumpur	88	75	rn
								Kuwait	71	53	clr
								La Paz	55	39	rn
								Lima	82	68	cdy
								Lisbon	59	46	rn
								London	49	41	rn
								Madrid	49	40	rn
								Managua	91	75	clr
								Manila	84	75	clr
								Mecca	95	57	clr
								Melbourne	69	52	clr
								Mexico City	73	48	pc
								Montevideo	76	68	rn
								Montreal	84	66	clr
								Moscow	39	28	sn
								Nairobi	74	62	rn
								Nassau	85	73	pc
								New Delhi	84	42	clr
								Nice	56	43	pc
								Osaka	57	44	pc
								Oslo	22	3	sn
								Sapporo	33	16	sn
								Seoul	24	12	sn
								Singapore	88	75	rn
								Sofia	52	39	pc
								Stockholm	30	26	sn
								Sydney	66	63	rn
								Taipei	60	57	pc
								Tegucigalpa	86	57	pc
								Tehran	54	44	pc
								Tel Aviv	68	50	pc
								Tokyo	51	46	pc
								Turin	44	28	pc
								Toronto	40	30	rn
								Tunis	70	53	rn
								Valletta	69	57	clr
								Vancouver	40	32	cdy
								Vienna	46	32	clr
								Warsaw	42	37	pc
								Zurich	37	23	pc

TUESDAY'S FORECAST



Sell it.....Free!

Advertise your car, truck, motorcycle, boat, or bicycle in Stripes free!
No charge! On us!
Up to 7 lines of copy for 21 days - free!
Call Classified today at 229-3276
or e-mail us at classifieds@ptstripes.osd.mil.
individuals only - no dealers!

Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES
www.stripes.com

AFN Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on AFN's Web site at www.myafn.net

MONDAY, DECEMBER 28, 2009

	AFN/prime Atlantic	AFN/family	AFN/movie	AFN/news	AFN/prime Pacific	PENTAGON	AFN/spectrum	AFN/sports	AFN/xtra
15:00	Wall Street Jrnl	Funnest Home Videos	(:10) Movie "Police Academy" (1984, Comedy) Steve Guttenberg, Kim Cattrall, Michael Winslow.	60 Minutes	Days of our Lives	FNG Useful benefits.	Designers' Challenge	(2:00) SportsCenter	NFL Gameday
15:30	ESPNEWS	Planet's Funnest Animals	(3:50) Pokémon	State of the Union	Oprah Winfrey	Recon	The Soup	SportsCenter	NFL Football Teams TBA.
16:00	Sesame Street	(:40) Zatch Bell				Fit For Duty	MythBusters "Hurricane Windows"		
16:30						Battleground			
17:00	The View	The Fairly OddParents	Inside the Actors Studio "Danny DeVito"	Week-Pentagon	Wheel of Fortune	Tour of Duty	King of the Hill	Sports	Sports
17:30		Teenage Mutant Ninja		Up to the Minute	Jeopardy!	Week-Pentagon	That '70s Show		
18:00	Dr. Phil	SpongeBob SquarePants	Entertainment Tonight		Wall Street Jrnl	Freestyle Iraq	Two and a Half Men		
18:30		Hannah Montana		Face the Nation	Around the Services	Downrange	Two and a Half Men		
19:00	The Dr. Oz Show	iCarly "Hurt Lewbert"	Movie "Oliver Twist" (2005, Drama) Ben Kingsley, Barney Clark, Jamie Foreman. An orphan joins a gang of thieves in old London.	Newsroom	60 Minutes	EXchange on Air	Eureka "Best in Faux"		WWE SmackDown!
19:30		Suite Life of Zack & Cody				Army Newswatch			
20:00	Access Hollywood	Smallville "Gemini"		Fox and Friends First	Drop Dead Diva "The 'F' Word"	Briefing Encore	Warehouse 13 "Duped"		
20:30	The King of Queens					Fit For Duty	Myka is trapped.		
21:00	The Young and the Restless	Friday Night Lights "Let's Get It On"	(:25) Movie "Four Christmases" (2008) Vince Vaughn, Reese Witherspoon.	Today	The Jay Leno Show	Battleground	Fringe A scientific engineered animal attacks Charlie.		Shaq Vs.
21:30						Recon			
22:00	General Hospital	Degrassi: TNG		Today	Pacific Report	Week-Pentagon	Seinfeld "The Pie"		The CollegeHumor Show
22:30		Strange Days			The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien	The Grill Sergeants	Friends		How's Your News?
23:00	Days of our Lives	7th Heaven "Gratitude"	(:10) Movie "Unbreakable" (2000) Bruce Willis.	America's Newsroom	Late Show W/Letterman	Briefing Encore	Two and a Half Men	Sports	Comedy Central Presents
23:30						Recon Revisited	Two and a Half Men		Premium Blend

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 2009

00:00	Oprah Winfrey	iCarly "Hurt Lewbert"	(11:10) Movie "Unbreakable" (2000, Suspense) Bruce Willis.	Newsroom	Late Show W/Letterman	Today's Air Force	Late Night With Jimmy Fallon	(11:00) Sports	NFL Football
00:30		Suite Life of Zack & Cody			The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Downrange			
1:00	Wheel of Fortune	Smallville "Gemini"	(:10) Movie "All the Right Moves" (1983) Tom Cruise, Craig T. Nelson. Coach opposes steel-town football hero's dream.	MSNBC Live	Judge Judy	Pacific Report	Criminal Minds "About Face"		
1:30	Jeopardy!					Fit For Duty			
2:00	Headline News	Friday Night Lights "Let's Get It On"		Happening Now	Hell's Kitchen Gordon Ramsay selects a winner.	The Grill Sergeants	NCIS "Angel of Death"		
2:30	ATS/AFN Report					Around the Services			
3:00	60 Minutes	Degrassi: Next Generation	(2:50) Movie "Oliver Twist" (2005, Drama) Ben Kingsley, Barney Clark. An orphan joins a gang of thieves in old London.	Newsroom		Downrange	Brothers & Sisters Kitty Walker returns home to California.		WWE SmackDown!
3:30		Strange Days-Blake Holsey				All Hands TV			
4:00	Drop Dead Diva "The 'F' Word"	7th Heaven "Gratitude"		MSNBC Live	Dr. Phil	Recon	Seinfeld "The Pie"	Sports	
4:30						State Dept Briefing	Friends		Shaq Vs.
5:00	The Jay Leno Show	Teletubbies "The Helicopter"	(:15) Movie "Four Christmases" (2008) Vince Vaughn. A couple must somehow fit in four holiday visits with family.	Studio B With Shepard Smith	Final Score	Battleground	Namaste Yoga	College Football Live	
5:30		Rolie Polie Olie			Headline News	Around the Services	Total Body Sculpt With Gilad		
6:00	Headline News	Sesame Street		The Situation Room With Wolf Blitzer	Good Morning America	Today's Air Force	30-Minute Meals	Sports	The CollegeHumor Show
6:30	The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien			Glenn Beck	Good Morning America	The American Veteran	Good Eats	Jim Rome Is Burning	How's Your News?
7:00		Bear in the Big Blue House	Inside the Actors Studio "Danny DeVito"			Downrange	E! News Entertainment news.	Around the Horn	Comedy Central Presents
7:30	Late Show With David Letterman	Blue's Clues				Around the Services	ER "The Honeymoon Is Over"	Pardon the Interruption	Premium Blend
8:00		Go, Diego, Go!	Entertainment Tonight	Around the Services	Sesame Street	Briefing Encore		SportsCenter	MTV Hits Playlist
8:30	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Handy Manny		NBC Nightly News		This Week in the Pentagon			
9:00		Imagination Movers	Movie "Before He Wakes" (1998) Jaclyn Smith, Diana Scarwid. A woman is willing to kill to preserve her rich lifestyle.	CBS Evening News	The View	Fit For Duty	Army Wives Joan is called back to duty.	Sports	Sports
9:30	Judge Judy	Viva Piñata		The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer	Dr. Phil	Around the Services	Private Practice		
10:00	Hell's Kitchen Gordon Ramsay selects a winner.	Peep and Big Wide Super Why!				Recon			
10:30		Abby in Wonderland	(10:50) Movie "Conspiracy" (2001, Drama) Kenneth Branagh, Stanley Tucci, David Threlfall.	Hannity	The Dr. Oz Show	State Dept Briefing	Judge Judy		
11:00						AFN Europe Report	Judge Alex		
11:30						This Week in the Pentagon	CSI: Miami "Forced Entry"		Sports
12:00	Dr. Phil	True Jackson, VP		Anderson Cooper 360	Access Hollywood	Fit For Duty			
12:30		True Jackson, VP	(:40) Movie "The Wings of the Dove" (1997) Helena Bonham Carter. A Briton schemes to raise her beau's social standing.	Special Report With Bret Baier	The King of Queens	Battleground	Challenge		
13:00	CBS Evening News	True Jackson, VP				Around the Services			
13:30	ESPNEWS	True Jackson, VP		Campbell Brown	General Hospital	Briefing Encore	Emeril Live		
14:00	The FOX Report With Shepard Smith	True Jackson, VP				Downrange			
14:30		True Jackson, VP	(:35) Movie "Space Cowboys" (2000, Adventure) Clint Eastwood, Tommy Lee Jones. NASA reunites four aging flyboys for an urgent mission.	Your World With Neil Cavuto	Days of our Lives	AFN Europe Report	Design Remix	SportsCenter	Sports
15:00	NBC Nightly News	Amer. Funnest Home Videos				EXchange on Air	Curb Appeal Home exterior.		
15:30	World News-Gibson	Planet's Funnest Animals		The Rachel Maddow Show	Oprah Winfrey	Fit For Duty	MythBusters Two potential kitchen catastrophes.	SportsCenter	
16:00	Sesame Street	(3:50) Pokémon				Battleground			
16:30		(:40) Zatch Bell		Around the Services	Wheel of Fortune	Today's Air Force	King of the Hill	Sports	Futurama
17:00	The View	(:05) The Fairly OddParents	Movie Mob	Tavis Smiley	Jeopardy!	Recon	That '70s Show		Yo Momma
17:30		Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles	At the Movies	Nightly Business Report	World News-Gibson	Around the Services	Two and a Half Men		The Simpsons
18:00	Dr. Phil	SpongeBob SquarePants	Hollywood Dailies	Nightline	Around the Services	Downrange	Two and a Half Men		Family Guy
18:30		Hannah Montana	Entertainment Tonight	The O'Reilly Factor	NUMB3RS Charlie focuses on tracking down a serial killer.	This Week in the Pentagon	Shark Tank		WWE Monday Night RAW With Michael Cole and Jerry Lawler.
19:00	The Dr. Oz Show	True Jackson, VP	Movie "Disturbia" (2007, Suspense) Shia LaBeouf, David Morse. A troubled youth suspects his neighbor is a serial killer.	Countdown With Keith Olbermann	48 Hours Mystery "Show Me the Money"	Briefing Encore	Lie to Me "Unchained" Interrogating a former gang leader.		
19:30		Naturally, Sadie				Fit For Duty			
20:00	Access Hollywood	Kyle XY Kyle joins the school basketball team.		Today	The Jay Leno Show	Battleground	Castle A string of high-end home invasions ends in murder.		Bully Beatdown
20:30	The King of Queens	Friday Night Lights "How Did I Get Here?"				Recon Revisited			Bully Beatdown
21:00	The Young and the Restless	Degrassi: Next Generation	Movie "Deck the Halls" (2006, Comedy) Danny DeVito, Matthew Broderick. Neighbors clash over decoration glare.	Today	Pacific Report	Around the Services	Seinfeld "The Stand-In"		SportsCenter
21:30		Strange Days-Blake Holsey			The Tonight Show With Conan O'Brien	Pacific Report	Friends		
22:00	General Hospital	7th Heaven "Wayne's World"	(10:50) Movie "The Brothers" (2001) Morris Chestnut.	America's Newsroom	Late Show W/Letterman	Briefing Encore	Two and a Half Men	Sports	Attack of the Show!
22:30						USARJ This Week	Two and a Half Men		
23:00	Days of our Lives								
23:30									

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 2009

00:00	Oprah Winfrey	True Jackson, VP	(10:50) MovieThe Brothers	Newsroom	Late Show W/Letterman	The Grill Sergeants	Late Night With Jimmy Fallon	(11:00) Sports	MTV Hits Playlist
00:30		Naturally, Sadie	(:35) Movie "Rio Bravo" (1959, Western) John Wayne, Dean Martin, Ricky Nelson. A powerful rancher seeks his brother's release from prison.	MSNBC Live	The Late Late Show With Craig Ferguson	Downrange			
1:00	Wheel of Fortune	Kyle XY Kyle joins the school basketball team.			Judge Judy	This Week in the Pentagon	Top Chef "Holiday Spirit" Another chef is eliminated.		Futurama
1:30	Jeopardy!					Fit For Duty	Supernatural "Dead Man's Blood"		Yo Momma
2:00	Headline News	Friday Night Lights "How Did I Get Here?"		Happening Now	Hell's Kitchen	Recon			The Simpsons
2:30	ATS/AFN Report					Around the Services			Family Guy
3:00	NUMB3RS Charlie focuses on tracking down a serial killer.	Degrassi: Next Generation	(:10) Movie "Disturbia" (2007) Shia LaBeouf, David Morse. A troubled youth suspects his neighbor is a serial killer.	Newsroom	Oprah Winfrey	Downrange	Close to Home "Land of Opportunity"		WWE Monday Night RAW With Michael Cole and Jerry Lawler.
3:30		Strange Days-Blake Holsey				Today's Air Force			
4:00	48 Hours Mystery "Show Me the Money"	7th Heaven "Wayne's World"		MSNBC Live	Dr. Phil	Recon Revisited	Seinfeld "The Stand-In"	Sports	
4:30						State Dept Briefing	Friends		
5:00	The Jay Leno Show	Teletubbies "Balancing"	(:10) Movie "Deck the Halls" (2006, Comedy) Danny DeVito.	Studio B With Shepard Smith	Final Score	Battleground	Namaste Yoga		Bully Beatdown
5:30		Rolie Polie Olie			Headline News	Around the Services	Total Body Sculpt With Gilad	College Football Live	Bully Beatdown

News

Sports

Weather

MIDDLE EAST HEADLINES

Alleged serial rapist barred from work at U.S. bases in

SCOREBOARD

Pacific scoreboard for the April 8 edition

Enter city or zip code

Find Location | Default Location | [C] [F]

Military News

Sports

Weather

STARS AND STRIPES

News you can use
online 24/7
at Stripes.com

STARS AND STRIPES

MAX D. LEDERER JR., PUBLISHER
JOHN D. PANASIEWICZ, GENERAL MANAGER
LT. COL. AUTUM WHALEN, COMMANDER

NEWS AND EDITORIAL

TERRY LEONARD, Editorial Director
HOWARD WITT, Senior Managing Editor
ROBB GRINDSTAFF, Managing Editor

PACIFIC

Thomas P. Skeen, Pacific Bureau Chief
Chris Carlson, Assistant Bureau Chief

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Assistant Managing Editors

Eric Brandner, News
Brian Bowers, Features
Sean Moores, Sports
Christopher Six, Photo/Graphics
Joe Gromelski, Web

ADDRESSES

U.S. MAIL: Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002
INTERNATIONAL MAIL: 23-17 Roppongi, 7-chome, Minato-ku, Tokyo
106-0032, Japan

FAX: DSN 229-3132; civ (+81) (03) 3408-8936
E-MAIL: Readers Forum: letters@pstripes.osd.mil
Advertising: advertising@pstripes.osd.mil
Marketing: marketing@pstripes.osd.mil
Circulation: circulation@pstripes.osd.mil

CENTRAL OFFICE: 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington DC 20045-1301.

Phone: DSN 312-763-0900 or civ (+1) (202) 761-0900.
Fax: (+1) (202) 761-0890

EDITORIAL DIRECTOR: Terry Leonard,
529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC 20045-1301.

Phone: DSN 312-763-0535 or civ (+1) (202) 761-0535.
E-mail: leonard.terry@stripes.osd.mil

HOW TO CALL US

GENERAL MANAGER: John D. Panasiewicz,
tel DSN 229-3121; civ (+81) (3) 6385-3121
READERS' FORUM: tel DSN 229-3166; civ (+81) (3) 6385-3166;
e-mail letters@pstripes.osd.mil
SPORTS: Dave Ormner, tel DSN 645-7433; civ (+81) (98) 893-2702;
e-mail ornmnerd@pstripes.osd.mil
For business, advertising and circulation numbers, turn to the
classified section.

NEWS BUREAU

JAPAN

Tokyo Editors: Thomas P. Skeen, Chris Carlson, Unit 45002, APO AP 96337-5002; tel DSN 229-3357/3158; civ (03) 6385-3357/3158; fax DSN 229-3271;
civ (+1) (03) 3408-8936; e-mail skeent@pstripes.osd.mil;
carlsonc@pstripes.osd.mil

Tokyo Reporters: Teri Weaver, Hana Kusumoto and Tim Wightman, tel DSN 229-3105, 229-3152 and 229-3166; civ (+81) (3) 6385-3105/3152/3166;
fax DSN 229-3271; e-mail weavert@pstripes.osd.mil;
kusumotoh@pstripes.osd.mil; wightmant@pstripes.osd.mil
Misawa: T.D. Flack, tel DSN 226-2550; civ (0176) 53-5181 ext. 226-2550;
(81) 3117-66-2550; fax DSN 226-3847; e-mail flackct@pstripes.osd.mil
Sasebo/Iwakuni: Travis Tritten, PSC 476, Box 726, FPO AP 96322-1126;
tel DSN 252-3832; civ (0956) 50-3832; fax DSN 252-3878;
e-mail trittrtt@pstripes.osd.mil

Yokosuka/Atsugi: Erik Slavin and David Carter, tel DSN 241-2874/2873;
civ (03) 04-6896-2874; cell 090-8054-8241; fax DSN 241-2876;
e-mail slavin@pstripes.osd.mil; carderdt@pstripes.osd.mil

Yokota/Camp Zama/Camp Fuji: Grant Okubo, Charlie Reed and Bryce Dube,
Unit 5058 APO AP 96328-5058; cell 080-5641-1935 (Dube);
tel DSN 225-9233 (Reed); e-mail okubog@pstripes.osd.mil;
reedc@pstripes.osd.mil; dubeeb@pstripes.osd.mil
Okinawa: David Allen, Chiyomi Sumida and Matthew Orr, Camp Foster,
Unit 3517, FPO AP 96374; tel DSN 645-3807 or civ (+81) (98) 893-2702;
fax DSN 645-9165; e-mail okubureau@pstripes.osd.mil

KOREA

Seoul Office: Unit 15334, APO AP 96205-0423;
tel DSN 721-7131/7132/7134 or civ (+82) (2) 2270-7132/7134;
e-mail koreabureau@pstripes.osd.mil
Araia: (Camp Red Cloud); Jon Rabirot. Mail to: USAG-RC, Area 1, Unit 15707,
Box 125, APO AP 96258. Tel (comm.): 031-873-6720. Cell 010-8917-1959;
e-mail: rabirotff@pstripes.osd.mil
Araia II: (Yongsan Garrison): Ashley Rowland, Hwang Hae-rym and Alfredo Jimenez Jr.
Mail to Unit 15334, APO AP 96205-0423; tel DSN 721-7131, 721-7132 or
721-7134; civ (+82) (2) 2270-7131/7132/7134;
e-mail: rowlanda@pstripes.osd.mil; hwangh@pstripes.osd.mil; jimenez@
pstripes.osd.mil; koreabureau@pstripes.osd.mil; fax DSN 721-7141
Araia III: (Osan Air Base, Camp Humphreys, Kunsan Air Base, Chinhae
Naval Base) Franklin Fisher. Mail to Unit 15334, APO AP 96295-0423;
tel DSN 784-2751 or civ (+82) (31) 661-2751; fax DSN 784-4523;
e-mail fisherf@pstripes.osd.mil

WASHINGTON D.C.

Assistant bureau chief: Derek Turner, tel civ (+1) (202) 761-0860;
e-mail Turner@stripes.osd.mil. Reporters: Jeff Schogol,
tel DSN (312) 222-1926; tel civ (+1) (703) 692-1926;
e-mail jeffrey.schogol@stripes.osd.mil; Leo Shane, tel DSN (312) 763-1183;
tel civ (+1) (202) 761-1183; e-mail shanel@stripes.osd.mil; Kevin Baron,
tel DSN (312) 222-1875; tel civ (+1) (703) 692-1875;
e-mail baronk@stripes.osd.mil; and Megan McCloskey,
e-mail mclloskeym@stripes.osd.mil 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350,
Washington DC 20045-1301; fax civ (+1) (202) 761-0890

Stars and Stripes (USPS 012752) is published daily (except Christmas and New Year's) for 50 cents daily and \$1 Sunday by the Stars and Stripes central office, 529 14th St. NW, Suite 350, Washington DC 20045-1301. Periodicals postage paid at San Francisco, Calif. Postmaster: Send address changes to Pacific Stars and Stripes, Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002.

OMBUSMAN: MARK J. PRENDERGAST

The Stars and Stripes ombudsman protects the free flow of news and information, reporting any attempts by the military or other authorities to undermine the newspaper's independence. The ombudsman also responds to concerns and questions from readers, and monitors coverage for fairness, accuracy, timeliness and balance. The ombudsman welcomes comments from readers, and can be contacted by e-mail at ombudsman@stripes.osd.mil, or by phone at 202-761-0945.

© Stars and Stripes 2009

STARS AND STRIPES WEB SITE: WWW.STRIPES.COM

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR/OPINION

It's not so easy in Iraq

Thank you for "Iraq to Afghanistan: A radical adjustment" (article, Dec. 19). While I can appreciate the quick and arduous transition the soldiers of 4th Engineer Battalion made from one theater to another, the reporter should not construct the illusion that life in Iraq is easy.

A soldier's military occupational specialty may require him to spend hours each day behind a computer. His contributions to Operation Iraqi Freedom are of equal importance to those who leave the wire.

In addition, do not determine a position's importance by number of hours logged. My mechanics work on their feet for a mere nine hours every day. They, like every other soldier in the platoon, are also on call 24 hours.

I have the use of Internet, as do some of my peers in Afghanistan, but it is by no means "high speed" or reliable.

My position as a fire direction officer does not require me to leave the base. After my eight-hour shift, I hold meetings with my sergeants, plan and attend training events, spot-check daily operations and serve as the officer in charge of a variety of details.

Finally, last time I checked, a "normal job" didn't require employees to spend holidays thousands of miles from their families. The boots on the ground have no say in where their unit deploys.

How easy or hard this time in theater is depends on the individual and his command. Certain locations may have more luxuries, but they are not limited to Iraq, and ultimately, there is no place like home.

Second Lt. Chrysa Gumbs

Forward Operating Base Hammer, Iraq

Why is overpricing tolerated?

I was assigned to North Carolina recently and finally understand that the Army and Air Force Exchange Service gasoline in Germany is overpriced. Can anyone explain why AAFES' prices are about 50 cents a gallon higher than stateside prices (the national average) for the exact same fuel?

Chicago Tribune editorial

If the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs determines that a military veteran is mentally incompetent, it can provide aid, such as appointing a fiduciary to handle his or her financial affairs. That's a service to protect the veteran. A needed service.

If the VA finds that a vet is mentally incompetent, though, it also by law reports that information to the federal government's instant background check system, which is used to determine if someone can buy a firearm. If you're in the system — you have a criminal record or you've been

Tell us what you think

Stars and Stripes welcomes your comments on editorials and columns that are published in the newspaper, and values letters on topics of importance in the lives of our readers. All letters must be signed, and must include the writer's address or base and telephone number. Please limit all letters to 300 words. We reserve the right to edit letters for length, taste and clarity.

Send your letters to:

U.S. mail:

Readers' Forum
Stars and Stripes
Unit 45002

APO AP 96338-5002

Via fax from Japan: 03-3408-8936;

DSN 229-3271

Via fax from outside Japan:

[Country code +81] 3-3408-8936;

DSN 229-3271

E-mail: letters@pstripes.osd.mil

International mail:

Stars and Stripes
Roppongi
Minato-ku

Tokyo 106-0032

to Stuttgart to shop at a halfway-normal post exchange, and then overpay for gasoline at AAFES prices.

Can anyone explain why price gouging is tolerated? These situations — added to long deployments, inadequate facilities, ridiculously long lines and constant road construction delays and detours — all add to frustration and friction in the community. Misplaced frustration and aggression is then thrust upon the unfortunate front-line customer service employees who have direct contact with patrons.

I am truly thankful to have left the Ansbach/Katterbach military community.

Ken Weindl

Marine Corps Air Station Cherry Point, N.C.

Who could be court-martialed?

I'm writing in regard to "U.S. personnel in Iraq could face court-martial for getting pregnant" (article, Web, Dec. 19).

I read many of the responses about the article to see if others felt the way I was feeling about it. To my surprise, it was an even battle. I was troubled at some of the responses.

Who's to say when and where you are allowed to bring life into this world? In my military experience, which lasted a little over four years on active duty, I spent two years deployed. In that two years, I know of five female soldiers who left "combat" due to pregnancy. Of those, four were married and allowed to live with their spouse. There was one who was not married, but where do you decide to draw the line on that issue?

Deployment orders are set about four to six months before the unit actually deploys. In that time, there are soldiers who do get pregnant. Would the same action be taken on them, because, technically, they are already on orders to deploy. Should we consider the soldiers leaving the battlefield for injuries that are noncombat-related potentially subject to court-martial also? So what now, Maj. Gen. Anthony Cucolo III, where do you draw your line?

Sgt. Andrea Sarckees

Fort Hood, Texas

Bill wrongly puts a gun to VA's head

found mentally incompetent — you can't legally buy a gun. ...

Sen. Richard Burr, R-N.C., is pushing a Veterans Second Amendment Protection Act. The measure got a thumbs-up from the Veterans Affairs Committee and awaits action by the full Senate; it would block the VA from reporting veterans to the background check system based on the agency's own evaluation. A court would have to rule that a veteran is incompetent. ...

The VA certainly isn't playing gotcha with veterans' constitutional rights; it provides assistance to them. If a veteran wants to challenge the VA's determination that he's mentally incompetent, there is an ap-

peal process available.

Apparently even Burr wouldn't argue that people who are mentally incapacitated should have access to firearms. He would permit the courts to deny that right. But the effect of his legislation would be to allow 100,000 veterans who have been found to be mentally incompetent the right to buy and possess guns. It would put an impossible burden on the VA to pursue legal action to deny that right.

The title of this legislation surely has appeal. ... But this is purely a question of protection of veterans — and also protecting society. Let the VA do its job and follow the law.

BY GARRY TRUDEAU



OPINION

A year of progress in all 3 theaters of battle

BY MICHAEL O'HANLON

The United States spent 2009 at war again — with its own troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and as a major, indirect supporter of Pakistan in its internal counterinsurgency and counterterrorism campaign as well. On balance, I would judge it a moderately successful year in all three places to varying degrees. But that is admittedly a subjective judgment and also obviously requires a great deal more discussion.

First, the basics: The year was one of gradual drawdown in Iraq together with intensification of operations in Afghanistan and Pakistan. Yet it was still Iraq that occupied the most American troops and cost the most for the year. The American uniformed presence there started the year at about 142,000 troops and will end it at around 115,000, with total budgetary costs of more than \$100 billion in 2009. But Afghanistan became the clearly deadlier war; more than 300 Americans died there in the year, compared with 150 in Iraq. And of the three countries, it was Pakistan that probably constituted the greatest potential long-term threat to the United States, with its nuclear weapons arsenal the ultimate desired prize for al-Qaida and other extremists in the region. Accordingly, U.S. expenditures there rose a good deal, to \$3.3 billion or so in the form of economic and security aid — though this is obviously a far cry from the 12-figure costs of Iraq and the expected 12-figure costs of Afghanistan in 2010 as U.S. troop totals there rise to nearly 100,000.

What about life in each of these places for the local citizens? Perhaps somewhat surprisingly, civilian fatalities attributable to war violence were roughly comparable in each place.

Yearly losses in Iraq were about 3,000 (still a factor of 10 less than annual totals in the 2004-07 period). In Afghanistan, the total approached 2,500 — much more than early in the decade but only marginally worse than in 2008. In fact, the higher numbers for 2009 over 2008 may reflect our greater ability to measure accurately

(due to an expanding troop presence) more than anything else. This figure of 2,500 civilian deaths, interestingly, is still less than Iraq's tally for the year — and perhaps 20 to 50 times less than the norm during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan in the 1980s or during the anarchy that followed the Soviets' departure. In addition, because of Army Gen. Stanley McChrystal's new emphasis on reducing the use of firepower in situations that could harm innocents, the number of Afghan deaths estimated as being caused by government or NATO troops declined somewhat, to about 500. In Pakistan, civilian deaths from bombings and other atrocities reached 4,000 — although that figure needs to be understood against the population, which is about six times larger than in either Iraq or Afghanistan.

Beyond the facts and figures, what was the broader story in each place — and my reason for guarded optimism about each?

In Iraq, 2009 was the year of transitions, and they turned out to be relatively smooth. Despite catastrophic attacks in August, October and December and an ongoing level of violence that still makes it a very troubled place, Iraq has done reasonably well in statistical terms. Violence has not increased even as U.S. forces have generally reduced their role. Another 10,000 "Sons of Iraq" have been hired into permanent jobs by the government, reducing the odds of a Sunni backlash against the Shiite-led government, and the economy has survived the decline in global oil prices. Iraqi elections are now scheduled for March, so 2010 needs to be another year of smooth transitions, especially as U.S. forces are scheduled to decline to 50,000 by summer's end. Though much could still go wrong, Iraq is holding together.

In Pakistan, 2009 was the year of government action. Major government military initiatives in the Swat Valley and South Waziristan reflected a new determination against the Pakistani Taliban. Its fighters have responded brutally with more suicide attacks against innocent civilians. But momentum may be shifting to the government's side. The Pakistani population,



though fed up with its politicians (and the U.S.), is even more angry with extremists these days. Successful U.S. drone attacks against Baitullah Mahsud of the Pakistani Taliban and other top leaders, including a key al-Qaida figure in December, have helped change trends as well. That said, in terms of the basic strength of its economy and society, Pakistan is still in serious condition; the global recession has hurt it badly and increased the challenge of educating and employing Pakistan's masses of youth.

In Afghanistan, 2009 was the year of political milestones. These included momentous decisions about the war by President Barack Obama in the U.S., of course, and by the Afghan people as they voted for Hamid Karzai in sufficient numbers to give him a second term as president. It was also a year of tougher fighting. In addition to the American losses noted above, and 200 more NATO deaths, Afghan security forces again lost more than 1,000 personnel (a number similar to the year's toll on

Pakistani security forces and about twice the combined losses of Iraq's army and police).

However, as McChrystal noted in recent congressional testimony, our clearing operations have begun to change the momentum in places. Next year, serious reform of the Afghan police must occur, and Karzai must accelerate his anti-corruption efforts. Don't expect miracles on either front, but moderate progress would seem probable. The question is whether it will be too little too late, but there is reason for hope.

Our nation's wars are, of course, hardly reason to get bubbly about the new year, and all three theaters could slide backward in the coming months as well. Still, the last 12 months have moved us in better directions.

Michael O'Hanlon is a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, senior author of its war index projects and the author of "The Science of War." This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Close both Gitmo the prison and Gitmo the policy

Los Angeles Times editorial

On Jan. 22, President Barack Obama almost certainly will miss his self-imposed deadline for closing the notorious detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba, which has caused incalculable damage to the image of the U.S. and added a foreign policy dimension to the axiom that "justice delayed is justice denied."

We're disappointed that Obama hasn't fulfilled his promise but ... [t]he administration is moving in the right direction, and recently has taken two important steps: It decided to move as many as 100 Guantanamo inmates to a prison in Illinois. It also said it would return six detainees to Yemen and six others to either Afghanistan or Somalia, the semi-autonomous northern region of Somalia. The repatriation of the Yemenis is significant because nearly half of the remaining 200-odd Guantanamo detainees are from Yemen — and if six can go home, why not the rest?

More remains to be done. The president must not only close the prison but also ensure a meaningful day in court for those detainees who have not yet had one. Here, too, there was progress in 2009: Obama announced that the alleged Sept. 11 plotters would be tried in civilian court. We're pleased that he's willing to seek justice in open court where the defendants will enjoy

rights guaranteed by the Constitution. Unwisely, the administration also announced that suspects in the 2000 bombing of the USS Cole would be tried in retrofitted military commissions, thereby embracing a two-tier system of justice.

Looking forward, Obama must be prepared to expend political capital opposing inevitable attempts in Congress to block or micromanage the transfer of detainees to the U.S. Equally important, he must pro-

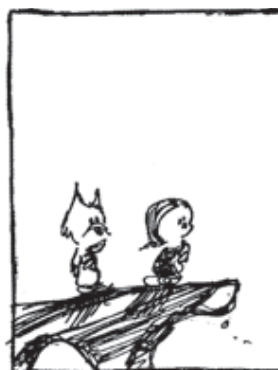
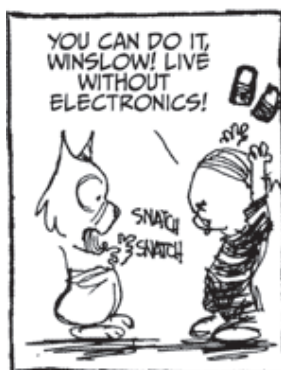
vide the same rights he has accorded Khalid Shaikh Mohammed to other detainees.

In announcing that he would close Guantanamo, Obama reserved the right to detain indefinitely those "who cannot be prosecuted yet who pose a clear danger to the American people." He has justified this by citing Congress' vote to authorize the president to use "all necessary and appropriate force" against those complicit in 9/11. The Supreme Court has accepted that

reasoning but it also has ruled that detainees have the right to challenge their confinement in federal court. ...

If the president continues to insist that the "worst of the worst" can be held without trial, he must explain why and establish procedures to guarantee that their confinement won't be prolonged by inertia or indifference. Obama must do more than close Guantanamo, the prison; he must end Guantanamo, the policy.

Prickly City



BY SCOTT STANTIS

Cops find abducted girl in Phoenix

AZ PHOENIX — A patrol officer spotted a suspected kidnapper's car and aided in the rescue of a 5-year-old girl, who was found uninjured in what police are calling Phoenix's "Christmas miracle."

Natalie Flores was rescued more than seven hours after she was scooped up by a stranger while playing with her sisters outside their apartment building.

"She is alive and well," police spokesman Sgt. Andy Hill said. Hill credited a "very alert" policeman with taking quick action after spotting the suspect's car.

Larry Jon Ladwig, 45, was booked into jail on charges of kidnapping, sexual molestation of a child, aggravated assault of a police officer and felony flight.

Officials: 2 children killed in house fire

KY LOUISVILLE — Fire officials say two children have died in a fire that destroyed a house in Kentucky.

Maj. Henry Ott of the Louisville Metro Arson Squad says the children were ages 10 and 12. Their grandparents were injured too.

Chief Chris Aponte of the Harrods Creek Fire Department says three firefighters were also hurt battling the blaze, which was reported through an alarm system.

Aponte tells The Courier-Journal the children's parents and grandparents had escaped and were trying to rescue the children.

Small town revives cane-giving tradition

MA WILLIAMSTOWN — A western Massachusetts woman who helped revive the tradition of giving a cane from The Boston Post newspaper to her town's oldest resident has become its latest recipient.

Hazel Burdick turned 101 in August. She received the gold-tipped cane in a ceremony in Williamstown, a rural community of about 8,000 residents in the heart of the Berkshire Mountains.

The publisher of the now-defunct Boston Post gave hundreds of the canes in 1909 to towns in Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. It was a publicity gimmick and a way to honor the communities' oldest residents.

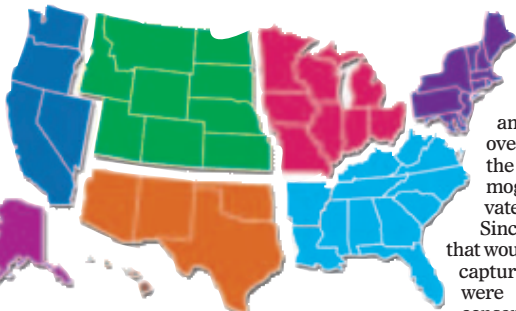
Two skulls found in National Forest

CA LOS ANGELES — Investigators in Southern California have found a second human skull in a national forest close to where hikers discovered the first on Christmas Eve.

Los Angeles County Sheriff's spokesman Steve Whitmore said it's unclear if there's any connection between the two skulls.

Detectives and coroner's investigators came across the second skull in Angeles National Forest in a search of the area where hikers found a skull with a bullet hole in it two days before.

Whitmore said the second skull showed signs of some form of trauma.



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

ma. He gave no further details.

Both skulls were found in a region of the forest that was ravaged by a massive wildfire in August.

Husband can't recover Madoff millions from ex

NY NEW YORK — A judge says a prominent New York City lawyer can't recover money he paid in a divorce agreement when he believed he and his ex-wife had millions of dollars invested with Bernard Madoff.

Steven Simkin says he gave Laura Blank \$6.6 million as her share of marital assets in July 2006 after more than 30 years of marriage. The figure included \$2.7 million that was half the value of Simkin's Madoff account.

But the account with Bernard L. Madoff Investment Securities was empty. Madoff later admitted cheating thousands of investors and was imprisoned.

A Manhattan Supreme Court justice ruled Blank didn't have to "shoulder her share" of the Madoff losses and threw out the case.

Bison conservation program in limbo

MT BILLINGS — An effort to divert some Yellowstone National Park bison from



Heavy load to carry

Aaron Pisors of Kansas City, Mo., carries a wooden cross and waves to a motorist just south of Marshfield, Wis. Pisors was carrying the cross into Marshfield to remind folks that Christmas is celebrated because of Jesus' birth.

government-sponsored slaughter is in limbo after the program's permit expired and criticism emerged over moving some of the animals onto media mogul Ted Turner's private ranch.

Since 2005, about 200 bison that would otherwise have been captured and slaughtered were diverted into a pilot conservation and research program run by the state and federal governments. The intent was to test the animals for disease and then ship them out to start new herds on public or tribal lands.

Park spokesman Al Nash said there has been no request to renew the permit.

Rancher sets aside land for endangered ocelot

TX RAYMONDVILLE — Few things would venture into the dense thorny scrub favored by the endangered ocelot. But with little of south Texas considered suitable habitat for the remaining 50 or fewer rare cats, the ocelots remain vulnerable.

The Nature Conservancy hopes to give another 1,300 acres of that forbidding thicket of mesquite, huisache and other shrubs to the spotted cats with a conservation easement it bought from rancher Frank Yturria.

Yturria, 86, spent much of his life fighting back such scrub on the thousands of acres of open grasslands where his cattle graze.

He and his wife, Mary, went a step further to protect the ocelot habitat, selling the easement on their San Francisco Ranch.

The swath of land, less than 15 miles inland from the Laguna Madre, straddles Willacy and Kenedy counties.

Ex-teacher convicted of having sex with boy

MI FLINT — A former teacher in Michigan has been convicted of having sex with a 12-year-old boy whom she met at a Flint elementary school.

A jury found Allanah Benton-Wells guilty of first-degree criminal sexual conduct.

She faces at least 25 years in prison.

Benton-Wells, 43, had denied the allegations.

Authorities say Benton-Wells had sex with the boy in 2007, when she was tutoring him.

Benton-Wells, who was fired from the school last year, will be sentenced Feb. 11.

Man accused of defacing Vegas sign apologizes

NV LAS VEGAS — A 69-year-old man has apologized for defacing the "Welcome to Fabulous Las Vegas" sign, weeks before he faces a judge on a misdemeanor property damage charge.

Joseph Peter Pepitone Sr. said he was "depressed and incoherent" and "not in the right state of mind due to circumstances beyond my control" when he threw paint on the sign on the Las Vegas Strip.

A news crew filmed him in the act.

He said he wanted to demonstrate against a U.S. Senate health care bill, and he thinks he began hallucinating due to medications.



Ready for 2010

The crystal-paned ball sits at the base of its pole on the roof of 1 Times Square in New York. At 10 seconds to midnight on New Year's Eve, the ball will descend and light up, signaling the start of 2010 to the crowds gathered.



A family affair

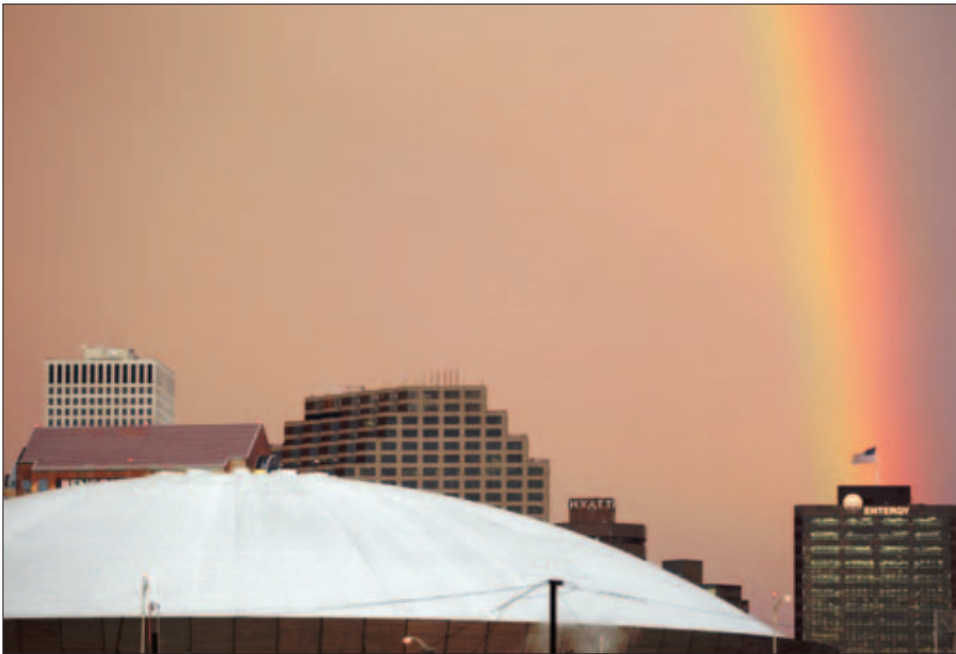
A new male giraffe looks out between his parents at the Six Flags Discovery Kingdom in Vallejo, Calif. The 145-pound, nearly 5-feet 10-inch male is the first offspring of 4-year-old female Makali, right, and the 6-year-old father, Nyumekye.



A sleeper in a haystack

Gallup, N.M.

Despite the falling snow, David Gonzalez rests atop hay bails stacked on 9th street in



Is that a pot of gold? The Louisiana Superdome and Entergy building in New Orleans are under a rainbow at sunset.



Mating season? A peacock, left, fans his feathers in a courtship display to a peahen as they roam freely on a rooftop in Longboat Key, Fla. Some residents want the birds removed because they are noisy and destructive.



Historic safe zone A deer appears in view of a line of cannons at Valley Forge National Historical Park, in Valley Forge, Pa. The National Park Service has called off a planned deer hunt at the park this winter.

Firm sells 3 funeral homes; mum on terms

MS VICKSBURG — A Texas corporation has sold three Mississippi funeral homes, including one in Vicksburg that it had acquired in 2007. Service Corp. International of Houston, Texas, announced the deal. Terms of the sale were not released. SCI spokeswoman Jennie Roberts said Frank J. Fisher Funeral Home in Vicksburg, Catchings Funeral Home in McComb and Jones Funeral Home in Ellisville were sold to South Mississippi Funeral Services LLC. Fisher was one of 600 funeral homes acquired by SCI in a 2007 transaction with Alderwoods Group.

Undocumented teen abused by family

TX SAN JUAN— Police in a South Texas town say a 16-year-old Mexican girl was raped, deprived of food and forced into household labor by a family who sneaked her across the Mexican border into the United States. San Juan Police Chief Juan Gonzalez says a 17-year-old Texas man is accusing of raping the girl six times. Authorities believe the man fled to Mexico. The man's mother was charged with failure to report a felony, and his 17-year-old sister faces a misdemeanor charge of assault. Gonzalez told The Monitor in McAllen that the girl "came over with the intent of a better life, but what she walked into was a nightmare."

Work suspended at weapons incinerator

AL ANNISTON — Work was briefly suspended at the Army's chemical weapons incinerator in east Alabama because of a problem during the destruction of a mortar filled with mustard gas. The military said no one was injured in the incident, which occurred, and processing has resumed at the Anniston Chemical Agent Disposal Facility. Employees were destroying a mortar filled with mustard gas when they saw what a spokesman described as a flash in a room filled with robotic processing equipment. The explosive fuse and burster were being removed from the shell at the time. The ignition didn't cause any damage, and work resumed after a few hours.

Ike victims can stay in mobile homes until July

TX GALVESTON — People who lost their homes in Hurricane Ike can continue to live in trailers provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency until July. The agency announced that it had granted Texas' request to extend the deadline from March 12 to July 9. The extension gives 896 Texas residents still living in mobile homes about four more months to rebuild their homes wrecked by the September 2008 hurricane. FEMA, however, said in a statement that it might begin charging rent past the original March deadline. The agency says the rent would not exceed "fair market rental rates."

Donkeys escape from church nativity scene

CO VAIL— A living nativity scene near the Colorado ski resort of Vail almost had to go without two crucial actors when two donkeys escaped. The nativity scene is an annual tradition for Eagle River Presbyterian Church in the Vail Valley. Pastor Rob Wilson said two borrowed donkeys were being held in a fenced-in pen for the event, but the animals pushed their way through it, the Vail Daily reports. A church member who stopped by the church noticed the donkeys were gone. He and a sheriff's deputy followed footprints in the snow and eventually caught up with them. The donkeys had wandered near some railroad tracks but were OK.

Father of baby who ingested drugs arrested

CA SANTA CRUZ — Police arrested the father of a 15-month-old California boy who ingested methamphetamine. Santa Cruz police Capt. Steve Clark said Jeremy Ochoa, 28, was taken into custody on suspicion of child endangerment after detectives determined he was the source of the drug. Detectives believe the child came in contact with the methamphetamine while Ochoa was visiting the boy and the boy's mother. Ochoa and the toddler's mother do not live together. The mother took the boy to the hospital after noticing he was behaving in an unusual manner. Tests confirmed the boy had ingested meth. Clark says the child has fully recovered. He has been turned over to Child Protective Services. Ochoa was being held on \$5,000 bail.

Man found dead after snorkeling on Big Island

HI HILO — Big Island police have identified the victim of an apparent drowning as a 72-year-old Washington state man. Sgt. Jeremie Evangelista said Clarence Bolt of Prosser died in waters off Kealahou Bay in South Kona. Police said Bolt had been snorkeling when he was found unresponsive in the water. He was taken by ambulance to Kona Community Hospital, where he was pronounced dead. Police don't suspect foul play. They have classified the death as a coroner's inquest, and have ordered an autopsy to determine the cause of death.

Laptop light led farmers to plane crash victim

ID BURLEY — An Oregon man survived a plane crash in Idaho's Cottrell Mountains, then was rescued by farmers who came to his aid in a tractor, guided by the light from his laptop computer screen. The Twin Falls Times-News reports that Thaddeus Bryce Fickel of Hermiston, Ore., crashed after his single-engine Cessna encountered turbulence. Two farmers drove a tractor to the top of a ridge and brought the 44-year-old Fickel down the mountain.

Horoscope

The Gemini moon is a talkative friend, filled with bright ideas, opinions and good advice. There's a conversational buzz wherever people congregate, even in the places that are supposed to be quiet, like the library. The social energy carries into the evening, when lively discussions will facilitate connection, even among disagreeing parties.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY (Dec. 29). Your opinions change, and you'll conduct yourself differently. January brings key knowledge, and life improves as you act on it. You'll know what is the right decision, because it's the path you would choose whether it led to success or failure. There is someone who needs your care and nurturing in March. Leo and Cancer people adore you. Your lucky numbers are: 6, 29, 15, 33 and 18.

ARIES (March 21-April 19). You're happy to witness other people's growth, especially if you had something to do with it. Someone may finally come clean about an issue you already knew about — a relief for everyone.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Change can be scary, even when the change is undeniably for the best. So don't be surprised when your friends voice concern at the new direction in which you're heading. You know in your own heart that it's right for you.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). A new opportunity at work means less time at home. You have a difficult decision to make. Talk to a partner about it. If you take the opportunity to do so, your partner will feel invested in it, as well.

CANCER (June 22-July 22). You will be a shining example of perseverance. You won't be the first one out of the gate, but you will still manage to beat out the competition by sheer tenacity. And this time, the victory will be all yours.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You

have made attempts before to work out regularly, but a routine is actually beginning to take root. Vigorous physical exercise will flush out the toxins of body and mind.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). A simple wholesome act raises your mood — like eating fruit, walking or smiling. From this new, more energetic space, you'll accomplish all that needs doing. Tonight features a special connection with someone older.

Holiday Mathis



LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23). A born diplomat, you always seem to be bringing feuding parties toward reconciliation. Be it arguing friends or angry co-workers, you have the gift of mediation, and you use it often and to great effect.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21). Brainstorm about your next step. Open up the floodgates. There are no bad ideas — take note of even the strange ones. There is probably a germ of greatness in the mistake.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21). Just when you thought you couldn't get any more charming, you'll meet the person who causes you to step up your game. You'll enjoy honing that wonderful personality of yours.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19). You'll make some budgeting changes. Upon close examination, you'll find things that you're paying for but not using. Also, you'll discover ways to do things cheaply.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18). You'll be an important addition to a group. Your input is part of what makes the dynamic work so well. Your personal anecdotes will help someone open up and share.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20). Being effective takes energy. Take steps to enliven your attitude. A lack of enthusiasm is not just a little problem. It can damage your relationships and hurt your work. Make it a priority to find your joy.

creators.com

SUDOKU

	4		5	9			8	
3			4	6		5		
	5		7					
1	4				9	7		
	8	9	1		4			
	3		2				6	
9	1		6					
				2	7	8		
		1				2		

Difficulty: Easy

Fill in the boxes so that each row, column and 3-by-3 square includes the digits 1 through 9. For solution, tips and computer program, see www.sudoku.com

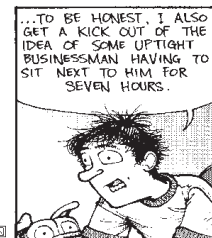
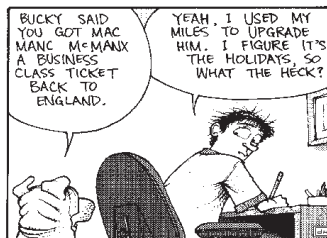
Yesterday's solution

8	1	6	4	9	7	2	5	3
9	4	5	2	3	1	7	8	6
7	2	3	5	6	8	4	9	1
6	3	1	9	2	4	5	7	8
2	7	8	1	5	3	6	4	9
5	9	4	8	7	6	3	1	2
4	5	2	6	1	9	8	3	7
1	6	7	3	8	5	9	2	4
3	8	9	7	4	2	1	6	5

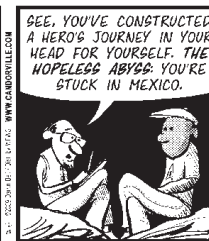
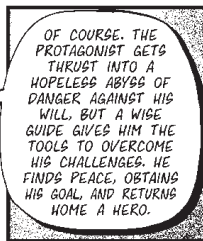
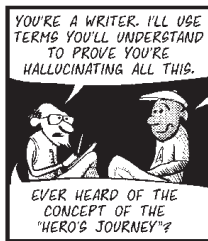
Beetle Bailey



Get Fuzzy



Candorville



Meaning of Lila



Knight Life



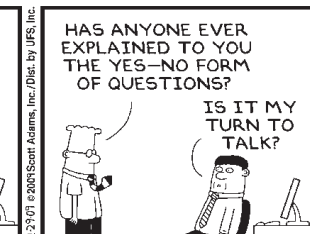
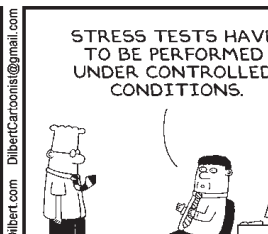
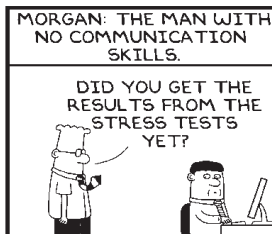
Baldo



Other Coast



Dilbert



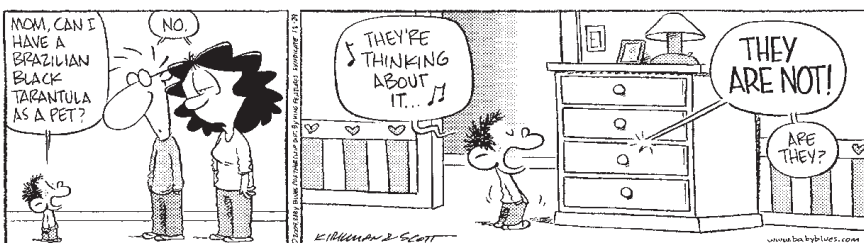
Frazz



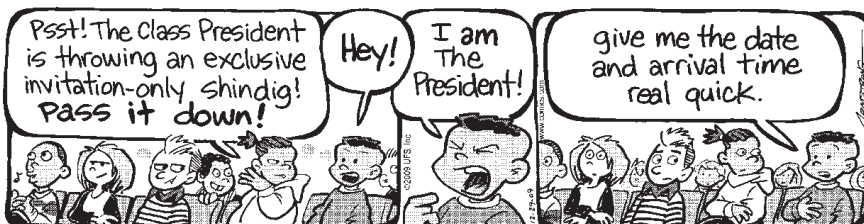
Garfield



Baby Blues



Jump Start



Zits



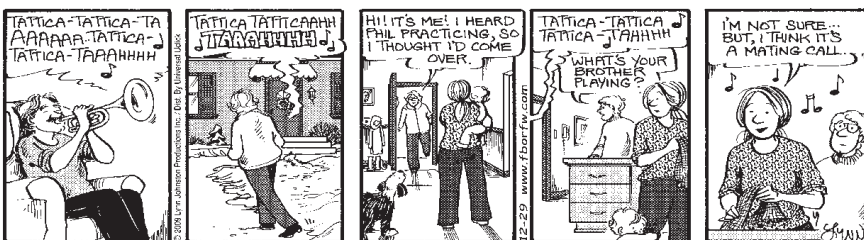
Red & Rover



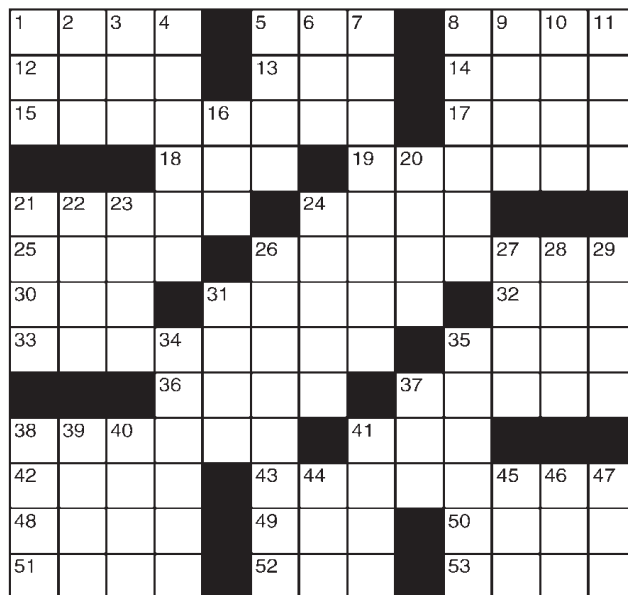
Hagar



Better or Worse



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Sleeve end
- 5 Barracks bed
- 8 Snare
- 12 Largest continent
- 13 Bonfire residue
- 14 Mysterious character
- 15 Buttercup cousin
- 17 "Do — others ..."
- 18 Nosh
- 19 Source
- 21 In two places
- 24 "— the night before ..."
- 25 Imitate
- 26 Place saver of a sort
- 30 — de-France
- 31 Fight verbally
- 32 Card player's call
- 33 Turkey preference for some
- 35 Somewhat, in music
- 36 Meadows
- 37 Be obliged (to)
- 38 Total
- 41 Ailing
- 42 Small pie
- 43 London area where you'll find Speakers' Corner
- 48 Bailiff's call
- 49 Conger, for one
- 50 Notion
- 51 Flower

52 Beam of light

53 Decorative beer mug

DOWN

- 1 Ore, neighbor
- 2 NAFTA signatory
- 3 Christmas tree, often
- 4 Charlatanism
- 5 Team leader (Abbr.)
- 6 Buckeyes' sch.
- 7 Ditch
- 8 Self-evident statement
- 9 Ladder component
- 10 Con
- 11 Drudge
- 16 Took a load off
- 20 Croupier's tool
- 21 Alkali neutralizer
- 22 Silents star Negri
- 23 Mimic
- 24 Frat party garb
- 26 Respite
- 27 Enthusiastic
- 28 Opulent
- 29 Entanglement
- 31 Prayer ending
- 34 Inept
- 35 Preacher's place
- 37 Bullring bravo
- 38 On
- 39 BLT topper
- 40 Raw minerals
- 41 Without acting
- 44 Verily
- 45 Commotion
- 46 CSA soldier
- 47 A Round Table knight

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	A	P		M	A	F	I	A		G	P	A
A	L	E		A	D	D	O	N		L	O	G
C	L	A	S	S	M	A	T	E		A	R	E
			A	H	I		A	M	U	S	E	D
B	A	G	G	E	R		S	I	T	S		
O	U	R		D	A	Y		C	A	W	E	D
D	R	A	B		L	A	D		H	O	P	I
E	A	S	E	D		P	E	P	O	E	R	
		S	L	O	B		B	A	L	L	E	T
V	I	R	T	U	E		U	S	O			
A	D	O		B	R	A	S	S	B	A	N	D
L	E	O		T	E	N	S	E		B	I	O
E	A	T		S	T	A	Y	S		A	P	E

12-29

CRYPTOQUIP

ITQ VIPY ZGWZ BWV WUILZ
W KGOVXSXWP BXZG W
DTILJXVGXPY KJWSZXSA IP

WP XPTAZ: "QIS ID ZGA UWO."
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: BECAUSE MY HERO SANDWICH WAS CONSIDERABLY LARGE, I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY IT WAS SUB-STANTIAL.
Today's Cryptoquip Clue: P equals N

STRIPIES CLASSIFIED

Stripes FREE Classified

Selling your couch, your car or your Stephen King collection?

Sell it FREE in Stripes classified.

Up to 32 words FREE for 21 days!

Free Ad Guidelines:

- Free ads are available to DOD ID card holders only.
- All free ads must be mailed, faxed or e-mailed. You may renew or make changes to your ad by calling 229-3276.
- Free ads run for 21 days and on a space available basis only.
- Please spell out each word. No abbreviations.
- Item prices must be listed.
- Free ads are available for private parties only. For information on commercial or in-home business ads, please call 229-3276.
- Stars and Stripes reserves the right to re-classify, rewrite or reject any ad.

Name _____ Phone _____
Address _____ Installation _____
Your ad _____

Submit coupon to: Stars and Stripes, Classified Ad Dept., Unit 45002, APO AP 96337-5002 Fax DSN 229-3214, CML 03-3423-8257, E-Mail classifieds@pstrips.osd.mil

Build Your Business for As Little As \$21 a week!

Stars and Stripes offers the most effective and affordable way to reach the military community overseas. Ad rates vary depending on the size of your ad and the frequency of insertion. Please contact us for details!

Reach us!

Phone us at:
03-6385-3276 (Commercial)
011-81-3-6385-3276 (Overseas)
229-3276 (Tokyo DSN)
645-7667 (Okinawa DSN)
721-7146 (Korea DSN)

Fax us at:
03-3423-8257 (Tokyo CML)
229-3214 (Tokyo DSN)
02-2270-7141 (Korea CML)
721-7141 (Korea DSN)
645-7667 (Okinawa DSN)

Mail us at:
Unit 45002, APO AP 96337-5002
7-23-17 Roppongi, Minato-ku,
Tokyo 106-0032 Japan

Email us at:
classifieds@pstrips.osd.mil

Deadline to place, cancel, or make any change to an ad is five(5) business days prior to publishing date. If the ad has a typographical error, Pacific Stars and Stripes' liability is to re-run the ad for one (1) additional day on the next available issue date. Any other problem with advertising must be filed in writing no later than ten (10) days after the first insertion of the ad. Ads cannot be run upside down or sideways.

All Classified Advertisements Are Non-refundable

Classified advertising is accepted from DoD personnel (private party ad Classified advertisements) and all organizations which provide a service of interest to the military community (business advertisements). All ads are assessed before acceptance according to the moral and ethical judgment of Pacific Stars and Stripes. Classified advertisements must be acceptable for our general military/family readership. Pacific Stars and Stripes has the right to return any and all ads considered inappropriate for publication.



Announcements

040

We met at the Globe & Anchor the night of October 25, 2002. I was with my friends from Tokyo. I bet you lost my e-mail address and I will never hear from you again, but just in case you've been looking for me...here I am. Thanks again for the fun evening and the cab ride back to my room.
Kisses, Olivia.

C'mon Get Happy!

Get your Happy Ad in Stripes today!
Want to hook up with an old friend?
Send your girlfriend a birthday greeting?
Or congratulate your friend on a recent promotion?
Whatever the occasion, book your Happy Ad today in Stars and Stripes!

Check out the details:

1. Email your greeting and digital photo to classifieds@pstrips.osd.mil.
2. Stars and Stripes reserves the right to edit or reject any Happy Ad.
3. A one-time \$35 fee for each ad must be prepaid prior to publication. You may opt to use a credit card or you may visit the nearest Stars and Stripes' circulation office and pay by check.



Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES
www.stripes.com

Email **classifieds@pstrips.osd.mil** or call **DSN 229-3276**

Announcements

040

Individuals placing classified advertising should use discretion in concluding the sale of their property. Not all potential buyers are reputable or honest. S&S suggests that you take precautions to ensure that potential buyers are reputable and will be able to fulfill the terms of the sale. S&S is not liable for the contractual relationship between sellers and buyers of merchandise advertised in the newspaper or on the web site.

Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES
www.stripes.com

Autos for Sale

141

Yokota, Japan - 1995 Toyota Exiv 4 door 6cylinder 4door automatic Pw Pl CD Keyless entry folding rear seats 128500km AC and heat. Car runs great no leaks. Outside scratched up a bit. JCI due Feb 2010 will need new tires and starter acts up from time to time. Other than that everything works great \$350. Asking \$350 Please email m a i l j r y r a m @ y a h o o . c o m or call 646-957-9391

Yokota, Japan - 1997 Toyota Lucida Van Very dependable family vehicle. Automatic w/overdrive, AM/FM CD, TV & Navigation Front pop-up moon roof, rear power sunroof w/roof rack and rear spoiler. Comfortably seat 7 passengers. Front & rear AC. JCI until October 2010. Asking \$2800. Please email jryram@gmail.com or call 090-6630-9557

Yokota, Japan - 1998 Nissan Kenrin AWD Station Wagon for sale w/ sr20 engine. Clean inside and out has 59,000km low miles JCI, inspection is good until June 2011, paid road tax this year everything is up to date. Bi annual tune ups, has normal dings and scratches runs well, new rear tires. Aftermarket Kenwood CD player all there is to date. Is to transfer title, asking \$2,000 also willing to trade for a sedan or a 2 door vehicle. If interested pls. call 241-2392. Thanks

Yokota, Japan - 94 Toyota Camry PCS Sale 82,700 kilometers drives like new... excellent gas mileage can be seen at the lemon lot Call for details. 1-702-946-6078 Roger

Autos for Sale

141

Yokota, Japan - 2000 Toyota Vitz Description Model Year: 2000 Mileage: 76,000km Body type: 4-Door Hatchback 500 Plate Automatic Transmission Exterior: Pink Interior: Gray Keyless Entry, New tires March 2009 JCI good through March 2011. Gas, Excellent gas mileage! Asking \$2500 Please email skiddoggers@yahoo.com or call 646-957-9391

Yokota, Japan - 2004 Toyota Vozx JCI until Sep 2011 81627 KM (about 50800 Miles) 3 Row seating for 7 and 5 Doors for a s a f e o f a c c e s s a m/fm/cd/md/hdd/navigation Rearview Camera Tires just replaced in May I had a rack and complete check at Toyo pet to ensure it's in good working order. JCI just performed in September. Due Sep 2011) This is a GREAT van that I hate to sell. My loss is a gain for someone else. This is the perfect vehicle for a family that is in need of a reliable vehicle with lots of space. Similar vehicles are selling in the local area for over 1,300,000 yen. Asking \$ 9500 Please Jim 080-6758-9769

Yokota, Japan - 95 Purple Honda Inspire Need to sell b4 31 Dec. Currently on lemon lot. Call for test drive. JCI expires March 2011. Asking \$1600 OBO Please email eboni. 080-6516-7422

Yokota, Japan - Mitsubishi FTO Nice car, but I need to purchase a van. JCI until Aug. 2011 asking \$1750 Please email fairfrit@aol.com or call 090-9787-8770

Announcements

040

Autos for Sale

141

Yokota, Japan - 96 Toyota Curen JCI exp Jan 2012 \$2000 JCI exp Jan 2012 Automatic Engine Start (works from 9th floor of tower) 2 Dr Excellent Heater COLD A/C PW PL To much to list now Battery/Tires Runs excellent. Asking \$2000 Call for Test Drive 080-3019-5299/042-553-5496 available Jan. 15TH

Yokota, Japan - '97 Honda Step-wagon Mileage: 91,800km Body type: VAN EG Description: Fuel Type: Gas Transmission: 4 Speed AT (Column Shift) Drive Train Type: 2WD Exterior: Metallic Lavender Interior: Gray Thers: P S PW, For 7 passenger, Non-smoking/Clean car Maintenance for First Inspection, Domestic Transportation, Sales Tax and JCI included. Asking \$229,000 Please email a i l j r y r a m @ y a h o o . c o m or call 090-7440-6346 Dennis

Yokota, Japan - '98 Nissan Prairie 110K, 4 doors with back hatch. Three row seating. This van runs great and has JCI until June 2011! The rear passenger doors are both sliding and windows are fully functional, CD player. Real clean JCI expires June 2011. Asking \$1700. Please email jbwat@gmail.com or call 240-845-5317

Zama, Japan - 96 Toyota Estima - good condition, 88,900 KM. JCI expires July 2011. Call 263-7877 or 080-3381-6202

Zama, Japan - 98 Honda Accord. 85,900 KM. JCI expires August 2011. \$800.00 OBO Call 263-7877 or 080-3381-6202

Autos for Sale

141

Yokota, Japan - Nissan Gloria Brougham w/VIP Trim Level - Fully loaded. Lots of power-V6 Turbo Automatic-Power switch (choices: normal, power, snow) AM/FM Cassette Tape, CD Changer, TV & Navigation-Front & Rear AC-Rear controls for AC & Entertainment system-Power reclining back seats-Keyless entry with remote-Lowered Suspension-Original Admiration Aero Kit-Super White HID system-Fog lights-Cornering lights-Power telescoping steering wheel-Cruise Control-Exhaust System-18" Deep dish wheels with polish lip. Very smooth, but yet powerful smooth drive. Any reasonable offer will be considered. Call me anytime for a test drive. JCI until March 2011. Asking \$3800 OBO. Please email jryram@gmail.com or call 090-6630-9557 Jerry

Motorcycles

164

Yokota, Japan - 2004 Honda CBR 600RR Some upgrades 2 Brothers Exhaust, Double bubble Windscreens, By Puig, Rear sets, Red devil eyes w/ toggle switch not shown new Red Chain Driven Racing Rear and Front sprocket powder black Recently removed faining decals L/R good first bike JCI expire 2010. Asking \$8000 OBO Please email jryram@gmail.com or call 090-6630-9557 Jerry

Yokota, Japan - Out Standing Honda 400 Super 4 Great first time! Bike for new riders in Japan. You have to have a 400 CC for the first year anyways. I am about to upgrade. So I want to sell this one. Runs, outstanding. I have taken it on many weekend drives with no problems. New tires and some small parts details of the bike will be given when I show you. I have had it for almost a year now. If interested please contact me. JCI until 2011 asking \$2000. Please email jbwat@gmail.com or call 090-7440-6346

Motorcycles Wanted 165

Yokota, Japan - Want to buy: 400CC Sport bike looking for a 400CC sport bike in fair to good condition. Negotiable. Please call 0803583545 Alexander Barnes

Baby Items

200

Yokota, Japan - Maclaren Quest stroller Charcoal and Pink Maclaren stroller, purchase Spring 2008 for \$225 Lightly used, has been in storage for the last 6 months and has suffered some dirt build-up as a result. Other than that, it is perfect. Asking \$50 Please email cjaahane@yahoo.com Jessica Zama/sha - looking to buy baby items/ baby gear for decent price. Please contact Patricia Wittsell at 267-6329 or email at puertobaby87@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale

141

Hawaii - 2001 Mercedes Benz C240. Silver. Nice rims. Leather interior. Everything is electric. Sunroof, 6 CD disk changer, Automatic. Well kept. Wonderful car. Selling for \$8,700. Obo. Please reply urgently!!!!!!! E-mail Monique.sutton@amed. army.mil or Monique.sutton@army.mil

Atsugi - 1994 Toyota Celica, red 2 door, \$1200 obo. Liability Insurance Expires: August 21, 2011, JCI Insurance Expires: July 24, 2011, Japanese Inspection Due: June 4, 2011, Base Inspection Due: May 27, 2011. Call Simah or Rebecca, Home: 264-7800, Simah Cell 08035880127

Misawa, Japan - For Sale! 2004 Subaru Black No JCI until September 2011, automatic, 5 disc CD changer, custom lights, partial leather interior, \$3,000 Please call 0178-56-5403 or meganpette1@hotmail.com

Yokosuka - 99 Mercedes Benz CLK-320 Classic, Silver, Fully Loaded; Left Hand Drive; JCI and Base Inspection; Available Now. \$18,000.00 OBO equivalent. Call Old School at 080-5678-0467 or email: blismn@yahoo.com

Autos for Sale

141

Misawa, Japan - For Sale! Loaded: Black '93 Nissan Gloria - \$4000 Payments accepted. JCI July 2011 19" deep dish Lowenhardt rims 4 12" Kenwood subs, 3 Kenwood amps, 2 Capacitors, Dynamist trunk kit 12" flip down monitor 8" in dash touch screen monitor connected to Windows XP computer with 80gb hard drive, keyboard, external Wi-Fi slot, 1 tunes, and other common windows programs. Sharp hunter green paint with new brakes and spark plugs. After market shocks, steering wheel, and door speakers winter tires please email nwbatsjw@yahoo.com

Sasebo - 1996 Mitsubishi Jeep (J-55). Looks like the old CJ-3B Jeeps with modern drive train. Reliable 2.7 L intercooled Turbo Diesel. Sharp hunter green paint with Cream soft top. New 30" BFG Mud Terrains on Crager Rims. 48K on odometer (30K miles). \$7000.00 OBO. email davidhumbrecht@gmail.com for pics or info. Daytime phone 252-2849.

Autos for Sale

141

Yokosuka - 2000 Toyota Mark 2 Turbo, 1JZ-GTE VVt. 5spd, 19in Work Wheels, Coilover Suspension, HKS Intake, Exhaust, ORC Clutch, Tomei LSD, Tuned computer, Vertex Body Kit and Intercooler. Extras included. Excellent condition in and out. Tags good till mid 2011. \$12,500. 090-8008-2478 Email mkvipwr@cox.net.

Yokosuka - 2000 Toyota Nadia, 4-door grey hatchback, 4-cyl automatic, 93000 km, AM/FM/CD/TV/navigation system power steering/locks/windows/ mirrors, JCI Apr 2011, reliable, good condition, \$2800 OBO. Tel: 243-7687 days, 090-6505-0046 e v e n i n g s s a t o s h a w 1 @ y a h o o . c o m

Yokota, Japan - 1993 Subaru Legacy Wagon Dark green 1993 Subaru Wagon with 99,097KM, has two sunroofs, A/C & heat, CD, automatic windows/locks. JCI due in Feb 2010. Asking 600 OBO Contact Mike @ 214-261-6421 or email for additional pictures/info

Autos for Sale

141

Yokota, Japan - '00 Mercedes-Benz C200 WG Mileage: 62,000km Body type: Station Wagon (W202) EG Description: 2.0L Fuel Type: Gas Transmission: 5 Speed AT Drive Train Type: RDW Exterior: Dark Blue Metallic Interior: Gray X Blue Others: 2-front and both side air bag, ABS, ESP, Electronic key w/mobilizer, 17inch AW, LED Turn Signal Mirror Include: Maintenance for First Inspection, Domestic Transportation, and Sales Tax included Asking 499,000 yen. Please email a i l j r y r a m @ y a h o o . c o m or call 090-6630-9557

Yokota, Japan - 1992 Honda Civic Hatchback My wife and I is PCS'ing soon so this has to go. AT, A/C (needs recharged), PW, PL, power mirrors, I put an alpine stereo and Kenwood speakers in it last year. I also put new tires on it last year and got new JCI this year. The outside looks good except for a little bit of damage to the passenger side mirror. A passing car hit it when it was driving by, but it's not too bad. This car has been very reliable, great on gas, and has never given us a problem. Asking \$900. Please email gsx_tcy@hotmail.com or call 090-6038-8465

CIRCULATION OFFICES

circulation@pstrips.osd.mil

MAIL SUBSCRIPTIONS:

DSN: 229-3171 CML: (03) 6385-3171

JAPAN:

Yokota/Atsugi/Zama DSN: 225-4505/6/7
Yokohama/Yokosuka DSN: 243-4771
Misawa DSN: 226-3406
Sasebo DSN: 252-3890
Iwakuni DSN: 253-4770

TOKYO HEADQUARTERS:

DSN: 229-3174

CML: (03) 6385-3174

KOREA:

Yongsan DSN: 721-7140

Osan DSN: 784-4393

Taejeon DSN: 768-7461

Pusan DSN: 763-3787

Kunsan DSN: 782-7431

OKINAWA:

DSN: 645-2010

CML: (098) 893-0292

FAX DSN: 645-7297

CML: (098) 892-0995

GUAM:

CML: (671) 632-1003

MARKETING:

marketing@pstrips.osd.mil

DSN: 229-3149; CML (03) 6385-3149

DSN FAX: 229-3132

COMMERCIAL PRINTING:

DSN: 229-3104

CML: (03) 6385-3104

John D. Panasiewicz
General Manager

H. Bryant Pierpont
Advertising Manager

Richard Chuckrey
Information Systems Manager

Terry M. Wegner
Accounting Manager

Darian L. Wilson
Marketing Manager

Jack Luersen
Production Manager

Charles D. Winans
Pacific Circulation Manager

Lt. Col. Autum C. Whalen
Commander

Your Hometown Newspaper
STARS AND STRIPES

www.stripes.com

Unit 45002, APO AP 96338-5002

7-23-17 Roppongi, Minato-ku, Tokyo 106-0032 Japan

STRIPE CLASSIFIED

Baby Items 200 Yokota, Japan - Kid-dopotamus Snuzzler Complete Head and Body Support Give Baby proper head, neck, and back support during car rides with the comfy padding. Features an adjustable, detachable head support that adds luxurious comfort to any infant seat. Fits in car seats, strollers, bouncy seats, swings, and joggies. Made of polyester. Machine washable (Never used. Kind of forget I had it). Orig. price: \$20 Asking price: \$15 Please email babyvalerie14@yahoo.com or call +12108814414	Books 250 Yokota, Japan - Communicating (A social, career and cultural focus) the authors of this book are BARCO, Wolvin, and Wolvin. This book is in like new condition. If you have any other questions, please let me know. Asking \$70 OBO Please email mmmmonney2003@msn.com or call 305-537-5241 Yokota, Japan - Introductory to Computers the authors of this book are Alan Evans, Kendal Martin, and Mary Anne Patsy. This book is like new condition. If you have any other questions, please let me know. Thank you and Happy Holidays! Asking \$60 Please email mmmmonney2003@msn.com or call 305-537-5241 Cellular Phones 280 Germany - Cell phone. Sprint HTC Touch Phone \$125.00 Purchased this phone but unable to use it here (no SIM card). Phone in AWESOME condition, has everything with it... previous owner had for less than a year and took GREAT care of it. I DO know that it is a tri band http://www.htc.com/www/product/touch_anjanette.arnold@rainstein.af.mil	Furniture 510 Yokota, Japan - IKEA High chair w/ tray GREAT condition! White plastic (can take the legs off easily). Tray easily comes on/off, makes it easier to clean w/! Lap belt including. Blow-up cushion (designed for this high chair) that u can use when the baby needs a little support to sit up. Asking \$17 Please email theresebringelands@hotmail.com Yokota, Japan - Japanese long wooden entertainment center. This item is very nice it's about 7 feet long, 3-4 ft high, has lots of space to put DVD player and video game console, DVD and other things. I have no room for it. Asking \$30 Please email mailani.4@yahoo.com or call 9164734514 Yokota, Japan - Love Sac - The Big One Black covers on large Love Sac: http://www.lovesac.com/bone.asp Use as a couch, bed, or extra chair, it is amazingly comfortable! Just flip it over when it starts getting flat. Asking \$400 Please email cjaahanna@yahoo.com Jessica	Furniture/Appliances 511 Yokota, Japan - PCS'ing Honeywell Tower Air Purifier PCS'ing and have to downsize now. White color-Honeywell Tower Quiet Clean Air Purifier w/ Permanent Filter (just vacuum to clean) Filters out smoke, dust, pollen, cat dander, mold spores, and more. For extra air cleaning, there's also an ionizer button that you can turn on. Please call 916-473-4488 Yokota, Japan - Sunbeam Mixer w 275 watt motor and stand. Asking \$30 Please 080-1057-7991	Home Electronics 570 Yokota, Japan - 42" Panasonic TV This is a real nice TV. I have no more use for it because I just bought two new TVs and have no more space for this one. The TV is in perfect condition and I bought a little over a year ago but rarely turned it on. I live in off base and my apartment is small so this TV was too large for the space I have. Please call me on my cell phone and leave a message if I don't answer. Also feel free to email me. Asking \$550 Please email chris.japan03@yahoo.com or call 080-1169-5088 Yokota, Japan - Canon GL2 presumes camcorder outstanding professional quality video camera built in stereo Mic., hot shoe for more mics. Or accessory, manual audio control, manual exposure control, many features. Available steady cam for camera as well as an additional price comes with hard case, remote, charger, battery, and 2 brand new tapes. Wireless lavaliere microphone also available Asking \$550 Please email grant@tslimages.com or call 080-3755-3434 Yokota, Japan - iPod Classic 80GB black just received in the mail 3 months after ordering from Amazon. So I already went and bought another one. Basically brand new. Few minor scuffs on back silver part: none on screen (has a screen protector). Includes box, earphones, and USB cable. Also has a hard case (black and red) Asking \$190 Please email issusweetp@yahooc.com Yokota, Japan - Kenwood Tower Speakers LS-V710 - 3 Way 4 speaker Setup -180W Peak Input Power 8 ohms Asking \$75.00 OBO. Please call 1-425-999-8508 Michael	Home Electronics 570 Yokota, Japan - Sony Wega Trinitron 27" TV. As is no warranty of course. 5+ yrs old. Buyer must pick-up. Asking \$50 Please email medina78@gmail.com or call 8503904299 Yokota, Japan - Toshiba 42 inch Plasma television (720P). We purchased this TV for \$1200, selling for \$625. We just upgraded and no longer have room for this one. Great condition we still have all original packaging, manuals, and box. Asking \$625 OBO. Please call 407-373-1354 Courtney	Pets 820 Yokota, Japan - Bunnies for FREE for Christmas! Bunnies make great indoor or outdoor pets. Besides being cute and cuddly, they are easily housebroken and trained to use a litter box. They can also withstand cold as long as they stay dry. We have had a litter of bunnies. Families in the neighborhood got most of our bunnies but we still have 2 left: a gray one, and a white one with a brown racing stripe. Free to a good home. Please email copes@writeemail.com or call 1-801-983-0655 John Yokota, Japan - JKC registered female Jack Russell Puppy. We are not breeders, we bought her for ourselves, but we are unable to keep up with her and our other Jack Russell. She was born 5 Sep 2009, so she is a little more than three months old. Very loving puppy. Comes with large kennel, and most accessories needed. Already been to Vet on deworming and get her third set of shots next week. We bought off base for \$1200.00. Asking \$400.00 Call Jason or Ann at 901-273-9899 or 080-4085-2423 Yokota, Japan - PCS'ing Italian Greyhound needs a home. (Alli) He is a 3 year old Italian greyhound. He is an affectionate and obedient dog once you instill yourself as the alpha. He loves to show affection, and is really mellow and laid back. It is best that if you have children that he is not roughed up as Italians are known to be somewhat fragile, and cannot take a lot of weight landing on one of their legs. He is out to date on all shots and is chipped and neutered. He would take well to someone who can have a good walking/restroom break lines. Asking \$300 Please email cial305-537-5225 or email douglas.krzywdzinski@yokota.af.mil if you have any questions. Yokota, Japan - PCS'ing-Mix puppy needs a home. (Dante) He is a 2yo mix. He is very loving and affectionate. Has a loving and protective personality. He is great with children, as long as they are not pincher/fur pullers. He loves to play, and does so without biting or ripping. Loves to play 1-on-1 or fetch. All shots are up to date and had both American/Japanese chips, never been ill or injured. Great dog, but unfortunately cannot take to our next duty station. Asking \$300 Please email douglas.krzywdzinski@yokota.af.mil or call 305-537-5225 Yokota, Japan - Urgent Sweet terrier Dog Needs Home FREE. Please help is out Yokota! Max is a Scottish terrier mix and has lived at Yokota for almost ten years. He is old and needs a good loving family that will take him out to potty and otherwise he is out of the way. We PCS in a week and he needs someone to help him make the best of his last years :) Please email morgian18@hotmail.com or call 214-261-6346	Pet Accessories 822 Yokota, Japan - Large Ferret Cage. I got this cage from joyful Honda and it has everything, paid 265,000yen. I will be PCS'ing on the 15th of December. Make an offer Please email jacque@hotmail.com or call 718-725-7368 Yokota, Japan - Used fish tanks for sale-accessories not included this is just for the tanks: 60cm x 22cm \$25.00 40cm x 26cm \$15.00 both for \$35.00 Asking \$35 Please email mdfisherman@hotmail.com or call (323)338-7553 Photography 830 Yokota, Japan - Nikon D-40 w/ 18-55mm lens, Nikon Camera Bag and 4G memory card perfect condition (only 6 months old) we just upgraded to a D-5000. Camera bag is brand new, never used. Asking \$75. Please email runnngt@hotmail.com or call 512-275-4825 Toys 945 Yokota, Japan - Dora pull-string pinata. This is a brand-new pull-string pinata with tags still attached. Asking \$10 Please call 813-200-9352 Sporting Goods 980 Yokota, Japan - Golf Clubs - Nicklaus n1 3-SW Nicklaus n1 golf clubs, 3-SW, steel shaft. Also a Knight two-way chipper and a Maruman Persimmon Driver, graphics that asking \$75 Please call 090-6315-7233 Yokota, Japan - PROFORM 560 treadmill practically brand new, just a couple of months old. It comes with a pair of 2 lbs. dumbbells. Asking \$300 OBO Please email smrmtm127@yahoo.com or call 904-229-0534 Yokota, Japan - Snowboarding Equipment - Complete. Selling my Burton snowboard, Burton bindings, helmet, Oakley Goggles, boots and spider snow suit! Email me for more details! Asking \$3000 Please email mayuajitsu1222@gmail.com or call 534330802 Tyler
Bicycles 220 Atsugi - Cannondale Super V 900 Mountain Bike for sale \$1500. Specialized FSR Mountain Bike \$1200. Both bikes are in outstanding condition. Leaving Japan 11 Dec so must sale at this low price. Call Tim at 08058963260. Yokosuka - Road bicycle 4 sale. 60cm Motobecane Le Champion Team. Kinesium SL Frame Full Ritchey and Dura-Ace components. \$1060. OBO. Tom @ DSN 243-4672, 046-849-6580	Computers 360 Yokota - 1 TB Lacie Ethernet Big Disk Network Hard Drive, model 3011560. Unopened box. \$250.00. WX price is \$288.95. Please email trutz@yahoo.com. Furniture 510 Misawa - TV/Stereo cabinet 60x55x21, asking \$100 or offer. 29 inch CRT TV, \$50. Contact Rick Jones 080-3725-1849. Yokosuka, Japan - Sleeper couch and love seat set - Only 1 yr old. Fits 5 people and turns to bed. Negotiable price. Contact samuel.soto@gmail.com or 080-4175-4333. Yokota, Japan - Bunk bed without madras's (doesn't matter if it's metal or wood). Please email theresebringelands@hotmail.com Yokota, Japan - Living room furniture set 4 Place black couch set willing to sell all for \$500 total. Trying to make room for new furniture asking \$500 Please call 314-558-3436	Furniture/Appliances 511 Yokosuka, Japan - Big Dehumidifier - less than 1 year old. Negotiable, \$150 OBO. Contact samuel.soto@gmail.com or 080-4175-4333. Yokosuka, Japan - Conventional oven (medium size) and toaster oven (small size) - less than 1 year old. Negotiable, \$200 OBO. Contact samuel.soto@gmail.com or 080-4175-4333. Yokosuka, Japan - medium sized refrigerator - less than 1 year old. Negotiable, \$150 OBO. Contact samuel.soto@gmail.com or 080-4175-4333.	Household Items 560 Yokota, Japan - New Cake Mold Nordic Ware Aluminum Bake ware Castle Cake Mold Asking \$10 Please call 77634774 REX Yokota, Japan - PCS'ing-all sports Lamp for Boy or Girl have to downsize now. Excellent condition - All Sports Lamp w/ Light Oak Base The pull string for the lamp to turn on/off is a whistle -very cute. The lamp shade is actually made of a durable canvas. I'm so sorry, I do not have pictures. Please call to see in person. Priced to go now-\$30.00 (really nice) If not home, please leave a message 610-473-4488 must go. Thank you. Home Electronics 570 Ikego, Japan - 42" Sony Plasma TV. 5.1 Sony sound system. Sony DVD player, Busch Home entertainment center with matching towers. I paid over \$3,800, only asking \$1,300 OBO. Only selling as a bundle. Buyer must pick up. 246-5935 or 08056732478 Ask for Dan. If not home leave a message. Yokosuka, Japan - SHARP AQUOS LCD HDTV 46in - less than 1 year old. Negotiable, \$600 OBO. Contact samuel.soto@gmail.com or 080-4175-4333. Yokota, Japan - 36" JVC TV 36 inch CRT TV. Works great but upgrading to a LCD asking, \$100 OBO Please email bigmac@kyoko.email.ne.jp or call 080-1057-7991 Yokota, Japan - Entertainment center w big screen TV 50oob0 Please email heavenlycm@yahoo.com or call 6013262447 Celeste Yokota, Japan - Kenwood Towzed Speakers LS-V710 - 3 Way 4 Speaker Setup-180W Peak Input Power-8 ohms Asking \$75.00 OBO Please call 1-425-999-8508	Home Electronics 570 Yokota, Japan - Philips S0PFP5332D/37 Widescreen Flat Plasma TV 50" with Pixel Plus 3 HD Panel resolution 1366 x 768, Brightness 1200 CD/m, Contrast ratio 10000:1, Aspect ratio 16:9, Viewing angle (horizontal) 160 degree, viewing angle (vertical) 160 degree (50PFP5332D/37 S0PFP5332D/37 S0PFP5332D/37) This TV is in excellent condition! Asking \$ 999.99 OBO Please email matthew.kline@yokota.af.mil or call 080-5013-9877 Yokota, Japan - PS2 - Great Condition- last time played was maybe 8 months ago. Has been collecting dust Comes with 2 controllers priced to go now: \$60 firm Please email rkjnsingleton@yahoo.com Yokota, Japan - Samsung surround sound this is a 5 disc DVD 5.1 surround sound system with wireless rear speakers. Excellent condition! Asking \$300.00 OBO please email matthew.kline@yokota.af.mil or call 080-5013-9877 Yokota, Japan - Sharp 22" Digital TV. Model LC-22AD, Analog/Digital/BS/CS tuners. Power cable. Remote control. User's manual No scratches. Like new, asking \$227.00. E-mail, or call Curt at 090-1466-1045. Asking \$27.000 Yes Please email churhunter.2000@yahoo.com	Home Electronics 570 Yokota, Japan - X-box 360 Elite with Everything + Games! Xbox 360 Elite with 120G HD Manufacture date is May 15 2008. All cables included. Comes with LED, modded controller, clear case controller and pink controller. Games included MW2, Gears of War 2, Vegas 2, Morrow Wind, Bio shock, CoD4 and many more Serious buyers only Asking \$500 I must sell ASAP! Call 080.6673.1820 Yokota, Japan - X-box guitar hero 2 guitar's, mike and drums Asking \$40 OBO mailani.4@yahoo.com or call 9164734514 Jewelry 610 Yokota, Japan - Cubic Zirconium Bracelet - A shining silver bracelet that goes with just about any outfit. Easy to get on and off with one hand but stays latched tight! Perfect Christmas gift. D asking \$15 please call 803-386-0550 Sarah Musical Instruments 740 Yokota, Japan - Beginner Causal Guitar. Practically new guitar with soft case and tuner, used maybe twice, Asking \$100 OBO Please email gdeleon20@yahoo.com or call 080-2094-7746 Yokota, Japan - Electric Guitar and Amp Bought second hand off-base. Crystal style guitar looks cool but I do not use it. Paid over \$300.00 off base this summer asking \$200. Please email f100302@yahoo.com or call 080-3272-5518 Outdoor Living 775 Yokota, Japan - Murray Lawnmower! Well maintained and runs great! I have used it for 2 seasons now. Hurry while it lasts! Asking \$50 Please email ray3ta3@yahoo.com or call 1-623-734-9675 Yokota, Japan - Outdoor patio swing- really good condition Asking \$65 Please call 2108814404	PCS Sale 780 Yokota, Japan - Oak Entertainment Center Over weight on our PCS move, must lighten load. Retail for \$650 also have Toyota Camry nice car \$1000 and it still has over one year JCI, Roger or Mechi 702-946-6078 Asking \$100 OBO Pets 820 Yokota, Japan - bicolor Salt water fish 1 inch long asking \$7 Please email mdfisherman@hotmail.com or call (323)338-7553	Pet Accessories 822 Yokota, Japan - Aquarium stand for 90 cm tank 150 liters Used stand Asking \$50 Please email mdfisherman@hotmail.com or call (323)338-7553





NBA roundup

Bulls beat Hornets to cap eventful week

The Associated Press

CHICAGO — After watching helplessly the previous 22 games — 15 of which his Bulls lost, many in gut-wrenching fashion — Tyrus Thomas was thrilled to be back on the court, helping Chicago build and protect a lead.

Thomas had 21 points on 10-for-17 shooting, nine rebounds and two blocked shots in a 96-85 victory over the New Orleans Hornets on Saturday night.

"It felt like the first day of school all day," said Thomas, who had been out since Nov. 6 with a broken left forearm. "I had a new backpack, supplies, everything. It was great."

The game capped a wild week in which the Bulls lost to the Sacramento Kings after blowing a 35-point lead, lost at New York after almost rallying from a 22-point deficit and dealt with questions about coach Vinny Del Negro's job security.

"You have to learn from your mistakes but stay positive," said Joakim Noah, who had 17 points and 18 rebounds as the Bulls outscored the Hornets 54-16 inside. "It just feels good right now to get a 'W' — and to win by a big margin, which we hadn't done in a long time."

After Thomas and Noah sparked a 42-13 surge that turned an 11-point, second-quarter deficit into a 73-55 lead late in the third, Del Negro played Thomas for the entire fourth quarter.

The athletic, fourth-season forward, who has been in and out of Del Negro's doghouse during the past year, responded with six points, two rebounds and boundless energy in the quarter as the Bulls held on.

"He got a little winded but ... it was tough to take him out because he was so productive," the coach said. "You saw what his athleticism does for us."

The previous seven weeks, Thomas saw a promising season turn bad, as the Bulls absorbed numerous lopsided losses and late meltdowns.

"It's hard to sit and watch," he said, "especially when your team's struggling."

Devin Brown scored all of his 22 points in the first half for New Orleans, which had only nine third-quarter points and fell to 2-12 on the road.

Brown's sixth three-pointer in six attempts put New Orleans up 42-31 and got the United Center crowd groaning. The Bulls then started their extended run, with Noah getting 10 points and 10 rebounds, and Brown ended up missing the only three-pointer he took the rest of the way.

Paul, who had averaged 24.3 points and 10.7 assists in seven career games against the Bulls, had 15 points and seven assists Saturday.

"I can't let us come out that sluggish (in the second half)," Paul said. "That third quarter was just bad. What was the score, 23-9? That's unacceptable, especially on the road. It's my responsibility."

Kirk Hinrich replaced slumping John Salmons in the starting lineup and scored 14 points. Derrick Rose also had 14 for the Bulls.

Rockets 98, Nets 93: At East Rutherford, N.J., reserve Carl Landry scored 26 points as Houston sent New Jersey to its ninth straight loss.

Luis Scola and Aaron Brooks each scored 17 points, while Trevor Ariza added 13 points and 11 rebounds as the Rockets won for the fourth time in five games.

Houston, playing without Tracy McGrady this weekend, beat New Jersey for the seventh straight time.

Devin Harris led the Nets with 19 points, while Yi Jianlian and Brook Lopez each had 17.



NAM Y. HUH/AP

Tyrus Thomas, who had been sidelined since Nov. 6 because of a broken left forearm, had 21 points, nine rebounds and two blocked shots on Saturday night as the Chicago Bulls beat the New Orleans Hornets 96-85.

Hawks 110, Pacers 98: At Indianapolis, Al Horford had 25 points and a season-high 19 rebounds, leading Atlanta over Indiana.

Joe Johnson scored 24 points, and Josh Smith had 22 points and five blocks for the Hawks, who had dropped two of their last three games, all on the road.

Troy Murphy, Tyler Hansbrough and Luther Head all finished with 19 points for Indiana.

Atlanta took control quickly, opening the game on a 9-0 run and taking an 18-4 lead before Indiana made its second basket. The Pacers closed within four twice in the second quarter, but never got closer.

Indiana has lost five in a row and has permitted opponents to score at least 100 points in 14 of the past 20 games.

Mavericks 106, Grizzlies 101: Dirk Nowitzki scored 20 points over the first three quarters, then saw his teammates take control in the fourth to carry host Dallas to a victory over Memphis.

Nowitzki asked for more help from his teammates after the last game and certainly got it. Six other Mavericks scored in double-figures, with Jason Terry scoring 14 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter. He sealed the victory with four free throws in the final 20.6 seconds. Nowitzki was 0-for-2 in the final period.

Erick Dampier had 13 points and 10 rebounds, Jason Kidd had 10 points and 10 assists, Josh Howard had 11 points and Shawn Marion had 10 points as the Mavericks pulled out a split of a four-game homestand, and avenged a 16-point loss in Memphis earlier this month.

Zach Randolph had 27 points and 14 rebounds for the Grizzlies.

Timberwolves 101, Wizards 89: At Minneapolis, Corey Brewer scored 23 of his career-high 27 points in the second half to lead Minnesota.

Kevin Love added 17 points and 10 rebounds against a Washington team that has seven coaches and players who have significant ties to the Timberwolves organization.

Gilbert Arenas had 26 points, nine assists and seven rebounds. But he made just 10 of his 28 shots for the Wizards, who were looking for their first three-game winning streak since April 2008.

Thunder 98, Bobcats 91: Kevin Durant scored 30 points and Russell Westbrook had 22 as host Oklahoma City held off Charlotte.

Nenad Krstic added 13 points and 10 rebounds for the surprising Thunder, who improved to 15-14. They didn't earn their 15th victory last season until the 60th game, on March 2.

A near-capacity crowd of 17,961 showed up at the 18,203-seat Ford Center, two nights after the biggest snowstorm (14 inches) in Oklahoma City history.

Stephen Jackson had 24 points for the Bobcats, who dropped to 1-13 on the road.

Spurs 112, Bucks 97: Tim Duncan scored 26 points and San Antonio never trailed in a victory over host Milwaukee.

The Spurs opened a 20-point lead in the second quarter and Milwaukee didn't get within single digits in the second half.

Tony Parker had 16 points and eight assists for San Antonio, which has won four of five. Antonio McDyess scored 14 points and Manu Ginobili added 13.

Hakim Warrick scored a season-high 23 points for Milwaukee, which has dropped 13 of 17.

Jazz 97, 76ers 76: At Salt Lake City, Deron Williams scored 27 points, Carlos Boozer had 19 points and 11 rebounds, and Utah returned home to beat struggling Philadelphia.

The Jazz held the Sixers scoreless for nearly nine minutes late in the second half and used an 11-0 run during Philadelphia's drought to pull away and end a two-game losing streak.

Mehmet Okur scored 16 and pulled down eight rebounds, while Williams had eight assists in Utah's first home game since Dec. 14.

Thaddeus Young scored 20 for the Sixers, who played much of the game without starting center Samuel Dalembert. Dalembert had three fouls midway through the first quarter and played just 16:24, but still managed to pull down nine rebounds.

Warriors 132, Suns 127: At Oakland, Calif., Corey Maggette scored a season-high 33 points and had eight rebounds, and Monta Ellis added 33 points and 10 assists as Golden State beat Phoenix to end a seven-game skid.

Stephen Curry added 13 points, including two free throws with 3 seconds remaining, as Golden State outlasted Phoenix in a game that featured little defense. Six players scored in double figures for the Warriors, who had lost 13 of 15 before ending a four-game losing streak to the Suns.

Steve Nash had 36 points and nine assists for Phoenix, but the veteran point guard missed a three-pointer with 5.9 seconds left that would have tied the game.

NBA scoreboards

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	23	5	.821	—
Toronto	14	17	.452	10½
New York	11	18	.379	12½
Philadelphia	7	22	.241	16½
New Jersey	2	26	.067	22
Southeast Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Orlando	22	8	.733	—
Atlanta	21	8	.724	½
Miami	15	12	.556	5½
Charlotte	11	17	.393	10
Washington	10	18	.357	11
Central Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Cleveland	23	8	.742	—
Milwaukee	12	16	.429	9½
Chicago	11	17	.393	10½
Detroit	11	18	.379	11
Indiana	9	19	.321	12½

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Dallas	21	9	.700	—
Houston	18	12	.600	3
San Antonio	16	11	.593	½
New Orleans	13	15	.464	7
Memphis	13	16	.448	7½
Northwest Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
Denver	20	10	.667	—
Portland	20	12	.625	1
Utah	17	13	.567	3
Oklahoma City	15	14	.517	4½
Minnesota	7	24	.226	13½
Pacific Division				
	W	L	Pct	GB
L.A. Lakers	24	5	.828	—
Phoenix	19	12	.613	6
Sacramento	13	16	.448	11
L.A. Clippers	12	17	.414	12
Golden State	8	21	.276	16

Friday's games

Miami 93, New York 87	
Boston 86, Orlando 77	
Cleveland 102, L.A. Lakers 87	
Phoenix 124, L.A. Clippers 93	
Portland 107, Denver 96	
Saturday's games	
Dallas 106, Memphis 101	
Atlanta 110, Indiana 98	
Houston 98, New Jersey 93	
Oklahoma City 98, Charlotte 91	
Chicago 96, New Orleans 85	
Minnesota 101, Washington 89	
San Antonio 112, Milwaukee 97	
Utah 97, Philadelphia 76	
L.A. Lakers 112, Sacramento 103, 2OT	
Golden State 132, Phoenix 127	
Sunday's games	
Detroit at Toronto	
Indiana at Miami	
Houston at Cleveland	
San Antonio at New York	
Dallas at Denver	
Boston at L.A. Clippers	
Monday's games	
Milwaukee at Charlotte	
Oklahoma City at New Jersey	
Washington at Memphis	
L.A. Lakers at Phoenix	
Philadelphia at Portland	
Denver at Sacramento	
Boston at Golden State	
Tuesday's games	
Cleveland at Atlanta	
Oklahoma City at Washington	
New York at Detroit	
Indiana at Chicago	
New Orleans at Houston	
Minnesota at San Antonio	
Golden State at L.A. Lakers	

Saturday

Mavericks 106, Grizzlies 101

MEMPHIS — Gay 10-22 2-2, Randolph 12-19 3-5 27, Gasol 5-10 3-5 13, Conley 2-10 2-2 6, Mayo 4-14 8-8 18, Tinsley 1-6 0-0 2, Thabeet 1-1 0-0 2, Young 4-6 3-5 11, D.Carroll 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 39-88 21-29 101.

DALLAS — Marion 4-7 2-3 10, Nowitzki 10-16 0-0 20, Dampier 6-6 1-2 13, Kidd 4-10 0-0 10, Barea 5-13 1-1 11, Terry 7-18 6-6 23, Howard 4-6 3-4 11, Thomas 2-4 0-2 5, Humphries 1-2 1-2 3. Totals 43-82 14-20 106.

Memphis 30 25 22 24-101

Dallas 24 29 26 27-106

Three-Point Goals—Memphis 2-8 (Mayo 2-4, Tinsley 0-1, Gay 0-1, Conley 0-2), Dallas 6-17 (Terry 3-5, Kidd 2-6, Thomas 1-2, Barea 0-4). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Memphis 55 (Randolph 14), Dallas 47 (Dampier 10). Assists—Memphis 12 (Mayo 5), Dallas 25 (Kidd 10). Total Fouls—Memphis 20, Dallas 24. A—20,195 (19,200).

Hawks 110, Pacers 98

ATLANTA — Williams 1-4 3-4 6, Jos. Smith 9-14 4-5 22, Horford 11-14 3-3 25, Bibby 2-9 2-2 7, Johnson 8-14 6-7 24, Crawford 7-14 3-4 19, Evans 0-1 0-0 2, Teague 0-4 2-2, Pachulia 2-4 1-4 5, Hunter 0-0 0-0 0, Morris 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 40-79 24-31 110.

INDIANA — Dunleavy 1-4 0-0 2, Murphy 9-16 0-1 19, Hibbert 2-6 2-2 6, Watson 2-9 0-0 4, D.Jones 2-7 0-0 4, Ford 5-8 0-1 10, Hansbrough 7-20 5-6 19, Rush 2-5 0-0 5, Head 7-10 1-2 19, S.Jones 2-2 2-6 6, McRoberts 0-1 0-0 0, Price 1-2 2-4 2. Totals 40-90 12-16 98.

Atlanta 33 18 33 26-110

Indiana 20 20 26 32-98

Three-Point Goals—Atlanta 6-18 (Crawford 2-4, Johnson 2-6, Williams 1-2, Bibby 1-5, Evans 0-1), Indiana 6-14 (Head 4-5, Rush 1-1, Murphy 1-3, Dunleavy 0-2, Watson 0-3). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Atlanta 44 (Horford 19), Indiana 56 (Murphy 12). Assists—Atlanta 19 (Bibby 8), Indiana 18 (Ford 9). Total Fouls—Atlanta 14, Indiana 20. Technicals—Atlanta defensive three second, Indiana defensive three second. A—15,281 (18,165).

Rockets 98, Nets 93

HOUSTON — Battier 3-4 0-0 8, Scola 7-16 3-4 17, C.Hayes 1-3 0-2 2, Brooks 5-13 5-0 7, Lwiza 5-17 2-2 13, Landry 9-14 8-11 26, Lowry 1-9 4-6 7, Taylor 0-0 0-0 0, Andersen 3-6 0-0 8. Totals 34-82 22-32 98.

NEW JERSEY — Hassel 0-2 0-0 0, Yi 6-13 5-6 17, Lopez 7-11 3-4 17, D.Harris 9-22 0-0 19, Lee 3-8 3-4 10, Dooling 4-12 1-1 11, Boone 4-6 0-0 8, T.Williams 4-5 1-2 9, Battie 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 38-81 13-17 93.

Houston 27 30 13 28-98

New Jersey 20 31 18 24-93

Three-Point Goals—Houston 8-19 (Battier 2-3, Andersen 2-3, Brooks 2-3, Lowry 1-2, Ariza 1-8), New Jersey 4-16 (Dooling 2-7, Lee 1-2, D.Harris 1-5, Yi 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Houston 62 (Ariza 11), New Jersey 43 (Lopez 11). Assists—Houston 25 (Ariza 8), New Jersey 22 (Dooling, D.Harris 6). Total Fouls—Houston 17, New Jersey 22. Technicals—Yi. A—13,374 (18,974).

Thunder 98, Bobcats 91

CHARLOTTE — Wallace 3-9 6-10 13, Diaw 1-8 0-0 3, Mohammed 7-10 2-4 16, Jackson 9-25 5-5 24, Felton 5-11 2-2 12, Graham 5-8 0-0 11, Augustin 1-2 1-2 4, Murray 4-7 0-1 8, Diop 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-81 16-24 91.

OKLAHOMA CITY — Durant 10-22 8-9 30, Green 3-11 0-0 6, Krstic 6-10 1-1 13, Sefolosha 1-4 0-0 3, Westbrook 10-18 2-2 22, Hardaway 6-1-3 8, Collison 3-5 3-6 9, Maynor 3-3 0-0 2, Ibaka 0-4 0-0 0. Totals 39-83 15-21 98.

Charlotte 25 25 23 18-91

Oklahoma City 24 29 28 17-98

Three-Point Goals—Charlotte 5-17 (Wallace 1-2, Augustin 1-2, Jackson 1-3, Graham 1-3, Diaw 1-3, Murray 0-1, Felton 0-3), Oklahoma City 5-13 (Durant 2-4, Maynor 1-1, Harden 1-2, Sefolosha 1-3, Westbrook 0-1, Green 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Charlotte 47 (Jackson, Mohammed 8), Oklahoma City 57 (Krstic 10). Assists—Charlotte 23 (Felton, Jackson 5), Oklahoma City 17 (Westbrook 6). Total Fouls—Charlotte 18, Oklahoma City 18. Technicals—Charlotte defensive three second, Collison, Ibaka. A—17,961 (18,203).

Bulls 96, Hornets 85

NEW ORLEANS — Stojakovic 4-9 0-0 8, West 6-14 0-0 12, Okafor 0-5 4-8 4, Paul 7-14 0-0 15, D.Brown 6-9 4-4 22, Songaila 3-10 0-0 6, Wright 1-3 0-0 2, Posey 1-5 2-2 5, Collison 3-5 0-0 6, Thornton 2-3 0-0 5, B.Brown 0-2 0-0 0. Totals 33-79 10-14 85.

CHICAGO — Deng 6-13 0-0 12, Gibson 2-3 1-5, Noah 8-15 1-2 17, Rose 7-20 0-0 14, Hinrich 5-13 1-1 14, Thomas 10-17 1-3 21, Salmons 1-5 0-0 3, Johnson 2-2 2-2 6, Miller 0-1 2-2 2, Pargo 1-2 0-0 2. Totals 42-91 11-16 96.

New Orleans 27 24 9 25-85

Chicago 24 26 23 23-96

Three-Point Goals—New Orleans 9-19 (D.Brown 6-7, Thornton 1-2, Paul 1-2, Posey 1-4, Collison 1-0, Stojakovic 1-2), Chicago 4-9 (Hinrich 3-5, Salmons 1-2, Deng 0-1, Thomas 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—New Orleans 41 (Okafor 9), Chicago 61 (Noah 18). Assists—New Orleans 16 (Paul 7), Chicago 28 (Rose 9). Total Fouls—New Orleans 15, Chicago 13. Technicals—New Orleans defensive three second. A—22,008 (20,917).

Timberwolves 101, Wizards 89

WASHINGTON — Butler 3-9 7-7 13, Jamison 6-14 7-8 20, Haywood 1-4 0-0 2, Arenas 10-28 5-7 26, Foye 6-13 1-2 16, Oberto 1-1 0-0 2, Young 0-0 0-0 0, McGuire 0-0 0-0 0, Blatche 4-6 0-0 8, Boykins 1-4 0-0 0. Totals 34-91 28-39 101.

MINNESOTA — Wilkins 1-10 7-7 9, Love 6-13 4-6 17, Jefferson 4-13 3-4 11, Flynn 12-23 4-8, Brewer 9-16 8-9 27, Hollins 3-5 0-0 6, Ellington 3-7 0-0 8, Gomes 2-5 1-1 5, Sessions 4-9 2-8 10, Pavlovic 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 34-91 28-39 101.

Washington 22 20 25 22-89

Minnesota 23 20 25 33-101

Three-Point Goals—Washington 5-19 (Foye 3-5, Jamison 1-5, Arenas 1-7, Butler 0-1, Boykins 0-1), Minnesota 5-11 (Ellington 2-3, Brewer 1-2, Love 1-2, Flynn 1-2, Wilkins 0-1, Pavlovic 0-1). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Washington 56 (Haywood 10), Minnesota 65 (Wilkins 13). Assists—Washington 12 (Arenas 9), Minnesota 23 (Flynn 6). Total Fouls—Washington 29, Minnesota 18. Technicals—Washington Bench. A—16,838 (19,356).

Spurs 112, Bucks 97

SAN ANTONIO — Jefferson 4-10 2-4 11, Duncan 11-16 4-4 26, Blair 4-6 0-0 8, Parker 5-13 6-7 16, Bogans 0-3 0-0 0, Ginobili 5-6 2-2 13, McDye 7-8 0-1 14, Hill 3-6 0-0 7, Ratliff 1-1 0-0 2, Mason 4-5 0-0 9, Hairston 1-1 0-0 2, Haislip 1-2 1-2 4. Totals 46-77 15-20 112.

MILWAUKEE — Delfino 2-6 0-0 5, Ilyasova 2-7 0-0 6, Bogut 6-13 0-0 12, Jennings 3-8 4-6 10, Redd 2-9 2-6 6, Warrick 8-16 7-10 23, Ruidnor 5-10 1-1 13, Bell 1-2 0-0 3, Thomas 1-2 2-4 2, Meeks 5-8 2-5 15, Mbah a Moute 0-1 0-0 2, Elson 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 35-82 15-25 97.

San Antonio 26 30 33 23-112

Milwaukee 14 27 33 33-97

Three-Point Goals—San Antonio 5-13 (Ginobili 1-1, Haislip 1-1, Mason 1-2, Jefferson 1-3, Hill 1-3, Parker 0-1, Bogans 0-2), Milwaukee 9-17 (Meeks 3-4, Ruidnor 2-3, Ilyasova 2-3, Bell 1-1, Delfino 1-2, Redd 0-2, Jennings 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—San Antonio 51 (Blair 12, Milwaukee 39 (Bogut 8). Assists—San Antonio 31 (Parker, Ginobili 8), Milwaukee 22 (Jennings 8). Total Fouls—San Antonio 23, Milwaukee 14. Technicals—San Antonio defensive three second. A—14,864 (18,177).

Jazz 97, 76ers 76

PHILADELPHIA — Iguodala 6-16 3-6 16, Young 8-15 3-5 20, Dalembert 0-1 0-0 0, L.Williams 3-10 1-2 7, Green 3-10 0-0 7, Brand 3-7 4-4 10, Speights 0-8 0-0 0, Holiday 2-7 5-5 10, Smith 0-1 0-0 0, Ivey 2-3 0-0 6, Kapono 0-2 0-0 0, Carney 0-1 0-0 0. Totals 27-80 16-23 76.

UTAH — Miles 1-6 0-0 2, Boozer 7-12 5-6 19, Okur 6-10 4-5 16, D.Williams 10-14 3-6 27, Brewer 2-3 0-0 4, Matthews 6-9 3-5 16, Kirilenko 2-5 2-4 6, Millsap 1-6 1-2 3, Price 0-2 1-2 1, Korver 1-2 0-0 3, Fesenko 0-0 0-0 0, Koufo 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 36-69 19-30 97.

Philadelphia 19 20 25 12-76

Utah 25 23 24 25-97

Three-Point Goals—Philadelphia 6-18 (Ivey 2-2, Green 1-1, Holiday 1-1, Iguodala 1-3, Young 1-3, Smith 0-1, Kapono 0-1, Carney 0-1, L.Williams 0-4), Utah 6-11 (D.Williams 4-4, Korver 1-1, Matthews 1-2, Brewer 0-1, Miles 0-1, Okur 0-2). Fouled Out—None. Rebounds—Philadelphia 45 (Dalembert 9), Utah 59 (Boozer, Millsap 11). Assists—Philadelphia 11 (Iguodala, Green 3), Utah 24 (D.Williams 8). Total Fouls—Philadelphia 24, Utah 20. Technicals—D.Williams. A—19,911 (19,911).

Lakers 112, Kings 103 (2OT)

L.A. LAKERS — Odom 6-15 0-0 13, Gasol 9-14 6-10 24, Bynum 1-9 1-2 3, Fisher 3-11 4-4 11, Bryant 16-30 2-2 38, Vujacic 1-2 2-2 5, Morrison 0-1 2-1 1, Brown 6-12 2-3 15, Farmer 1-4 0-0 2, Powell 0-0 0-0 0. Totals 43-98 18-25 112.

SACRAMENTO — Greene 6-12 2-2 16, Thompson 4-12 2-3 10, Hawes 4-14 0-0 8, Udrih 10-19 0-0 23, Evans 9-23 0-0 18, Udoka 4-8 3-5 11, Brockman 0-1 1-2 1, Casspi 1-1 4-6 15, Rodriguez 0-2 0-0 0, Nocioni 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 42-105 13-20 103.

L.A. Lakers 28 27 23 16 7 11-112

Sacramento 31 26 21 16 7 2-103

Three-Point Goals—L.A. Lakers 8-19 (Bryant 4-8, Odom 1-2, Vujacic 1-2, Brown 1-2, Fisher 1-4, Farmer 0-1), Sacramento 6-25 (Udrih 3-7, Greene 2-4, Casspi 1-6, Udoka 0-2, Hawes 0-2, Evans 0-4). Fouled Out—Thompson, Rebounds—L.A. Lakers 70 (Odom 15), Sacramento 62 (Casspi 10). Assists—L.A. Lakers 20 (Bryant, Bynum 4), Sacramento 21 (Hawes 7). Total Fouls—L.A. Lakers 23, Sacramento 28. A—17,345 (17,317).

Warriors 132, Suns 127

PHOENIX — Hill 3-10 2-2 8, Stoudemire 4-9 1-4 9, Frye 5-9 1-2 12, Nash 14-22 2-2 36, Richardson 8-13 4-6 22, Dudley 3-7 3-3 11, Amundson 4-6 0-0 8, Dragic 3-3 4-6 11, Barbosa 3-9 2-2 10. Totals 47-88 19-27 127.

GOLDEN STATE — Morrow 5-13 4-5 14, Maggette 13-17 7-7 33, Randolph 6-7 5-6 17, Curry 4-10 2-2 13, Ellis 13-27 7-8 33, Watson 4-5 5-6 14, Radmanovic 3-5 1-1 7, Turiaf 0-0 1-2 1. Totals 48-84 32-37 127.

Phoenix 35 36 37 19-127

Golden State 36 34 34 28-132

Three-Point Goals—Phoenix 14-31 (Nash 6-12, Dudley 2-4, Barbosa 2-5, Richardson 2-6, Dragic 1-1, Frye 1-2, Hill 0-1), Golden State 4-11 (Curry 3-4, Watson 1-1, Ellis 0-1, Morrow 0-5). Fouled Out—Stoudemire. Rebounds—Phoenix 43 (Hill, Stoudemire 7), Golden State 47 (Maggette 8). Assists—Phoenix 20 (Nash 9), Golden State 26 (Ellis 10). Total Fouls—Phoenix 27, Golden State 21. Technicals—Phoenix defensive three second, Golden State defensive three second. A—19,550 (19,596).

Leaders

Scoring	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Anthony, DEN	30	311	263	91.1
Bryant, LAL	29	322	188	86.3
James, CLE	31	310	220	89.1
Duncan, SAS	27	270	140	62.6
Wade, MIA	27	249	205	72.5
Nowitzki, DAL	29	271	188	75.2
Ellis, GOL	29	288	141	73.2
Bosh, TOR	31	250	220	72.6
Roy, POR	31	249	165	70.7
Adams, OKC	28	217	140	62.6
Johnson, ATL	29	240	97	62.1
Gay, MEM	28	220	117	57.7
Evans, SAC	28	212	130	56.9
Duncan, SAN	25	201	102	50.4
Stoudemire, PHX	31	235	153	62.3
Williams, UTA	28	204	115	55.7
Randolph, MEM	29	234	140	62.6
Kaman, LAC	29	238	97	57.1
Boozer, UTA	30	235	116	58.6
Jennings, MIL	28	199	88	54.1

	FG	FGA	PCT
Perkins, BOS	134	209	.641
Howard, ORL	167	269	.621
Gasol, MEM	162	266	.609
Horford, ATL	170	288	.590
Landry, HOU	178	305	.584
Hilario, DEN	153	267	.573
Millsap, UTA	129	226	.571
Lee, NYK	215	379	.567
O'Neal, MIA	133	237	.561
Garnett, BOS	168	302	.556



Nick Wass/AP

Washington center Nicklas Backstrom (19) celebrates his goal against New Jersey goalie Martin Brodeur during the second period of Saturday's game in Washington. Washington won 4-1.

Capitals grab overall NHL lead from Devils

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The Washington Capitals left no doubt that they can play with the New Jersey Devils.

Alex Ovechkin and Nicklas Backstrom each had a goal and two assists to help Washington beat the Devils 4-1, giving the Capitals a one-point lead in the overall NHL standings.

Washington has 54 points, one more than New Jersey, Pittsburgh, Chicago and San Jose. Washington won its third straight and ended New Jersey's five-game winning streak.

The Capitals lost their first three games against the Devils despite taking first-period leads in each. Washington took a 2-0 lead in this game and never let up.

"I think we played a complete game," Washington coach Bruce Boudreau said. "I thought it was a great effort on our part."

Rookie goalie Michal Neuvirth won his third straight start, making 29 saves. The Capitals pressured Martin Brodeur all night, outshooting the Devils 40-30.

Brodeur had a 36-12-4 record with a 2.11 goals-against average versus Washington heading into the game. But the offensive pressure and Neuvirth's strong effort gave the Capitals their first victory against New Jersey this season.

"These guys had 40 shots on net," Brodeur said. "They're explosive offensively. When you give that kind of a team that many good scoring chances, with that

talent, they'll put the puck in the net."

The only goal Neuvirth allowed came on Rod Pelley's shot that deflected off Washington defenseman John Erskine's pants and into the net.

But the 21-year old goalie — playing in just his 10th NHL game — couldn't hide his delight at beating Brodeur.

"I'm feeling unbelievable right now," Neuvirth said. "I just beat the best goalie in the world, so it's amazing. I used to watch him on TV, so it was something special."

Washington's top line of Ovechkin, Backstrom and Alexander Semin — who signed a one-year contract extension Saturday — also was special. They combined for two goals, five assists and 14 shots and finished plus-3.

It was Ovechkin's third consecutive three-point night.

"We understand each other a lot, and you can see how we control the puck in the offensive zone and we feel pretty good and nobody can stop us," Ovechkin said. "We have to continue playing."

Ovechkin opened the scoring at 4:09 of the first period. Backstrom won the draw and sent it back to Ovechkin, who scored from the left circle.

The Capitals made it 2-0 on a fluke goal with 6:06 left in the first period. Matt Bradley fired a shot that New Jersey's Mike Mottau appeared to deflect, and the puck was sailing over the net when Brodeur reached high for it. But the puck hit his glove, dropped to the ice and rolled in.

NHL scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
New Jersey	36	26	9	1	53	107	79		
Pittsburgh	38	26	11	1	53	124	97		
N.Y. Rangers	38	18	16	4	40	105	106		
N.Y. Islanders	39	15	17	7	37	96	123		
Philadelphia	37	17	18	2	36	104	108		
Northeast Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Buffalo	37	22	11	4	48	98	84		
Boston	36	18	11	7	43	96	91		
Ottawa	38	19	15	4	42	105	113		
Montreal	40	19	18	3	41	105	110		
Toronto	39	13	17	7	35	109	136		
Southeast Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Washington	38	24	8	6	54	139	103		
Atlanta	37	18	15	4	40	122	118		
Florida	39	16	16	7	39	112	126		
Tampa Bay	38	14	15	9	37	97	117		
Carolina	38	9	22	7	25	93	140		

Western Conference

Central Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Chicago	37	25	9	3	53	112	75		
Nashville	38	22	13	3	47	108	109		
Detroit	38	19	14	5	43	100	100		
St. Louis	37	17	15	5	39	96	102		
Columbus	39	14	18	7	35	107	136		
Northwest Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
Colorado	40	22	12	6	50	119	115		
Calgary	36	20	11	5	45	102	89		
Vancouver	38	22	16	0	44	118	95		
Minnesota	38	19	16	3	41	100	107		
Edmonton	38	15	19	4	34	109	127		
Pacific Division									
	GP	W	L	OT	Pts	GF	GA		
San Jose	38	23	8	7	53	127	99		
Phoenix	39	24	13	2	50	103	87		
Los Angeles	38	22	13	3	47	113	111		
Dallas	38	16	11	11	43	111	117		
Anaheim	38	15	16	7	37	105	122		

Note: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss.

Friday's games

No games scheduled

Saturday's games

Ottawa 3, Buffalo 2, SO
Montreal 3, Toronto 2, OT
Detroit 2, Columbus 1
Philadelphia 4, Carolina 3, SO
Washington 4, New Jersey 1
Tampa Bay 4, Atlanta 3
Minnesota 4, St. Louis 3
Chicago 4, Nashville 1
Phoenix 3, Los Angeles 2
Colorado 4, Dallas 1
Vancouver 4, Edmonton 1
San Jose 5, Anaheim 2
Sunday's games
Boston at Florida
Philadelphia at N.Y. Islanders
Buffalo at St. Louis
Toronto at Pittsburgh
Nashville at Chicago
Vancouver at Calgary
Monday's games
Atlanta at New Jersey
Detroit at Columbus
Carolina at Washington
Montreal at Ottawa
Boston at Tampa Bay
Calgary at Edmonton
Minnesota at Los Angeles
Phoenix at San Jose

Saturday

Senators 3, Sabres 2 (SO)									
Ottawa	0	2	0	0	3				
Buffalo	0	2	0	0	2				

Ottawa won shootout 2-0

Second Period—1, Ottawa, Shannon 1 (Kovalchuk, Fisher), 5:15. 2, Ottawa, Neil 5 (Volchenkov, Phillips), 6:05. 3, Buffalo, Vaneek 11 (Grier, Montador), 17:15. 4, Buffalo, Pominville 9 (Connolly, Roy), 19:18 (pp).

Shootout—Ottawa 2 (Kovalchuk, Fisher) 0, Buffalo 0 (Vaneek NG, Connolly NG).

Shots on Goal—Ottawa 19-10-9-2=40. Buffalo 1-14-3-4-2=22.

Power-play opportunities—Ottawa 0 of 3; Buffalo 1 of 3.

Goalsies—Ottawa, Lecavalier 9-6-1 (22 shots-20 saves). Buffalo, Miller 21-8-3 (40-38).

A=18,690 (18,690). T=2:36.

Canadiens 3, Maple Leafs 2 (OT)

Montreal 2 0 0 1-3									
Toronto 0 1 1 0-2									

First Period—1, Montreal, Gomez 5 (Pacioretty, Bergeron), 3:34 (pp). 2, Montreal, Plekanec 8 (Cammalleri, Markov), 4:28.

Second Period—3, Toronto, I.White 7 (Kulmin, Stajan), 15:07.

Third Period—4, Toronto, Blake 8 (Wal-lin, Komisaruk), 2:41.

Overtime—5, Montreal, A.Kostitsyn 12 (Markov, Gomez), 3:34.

Shots on Goal—Montreal 9-5-8-1=23. Toronto 16-17-16-0=49.

Power-play opportunities—Montreal 1 of 1; Toronto 0 of 4.

Goalsies—Montreal, Halak 10-5-0 (49 shots-47 saves). Toronto, Gustavsson 7-6-7 (23-20).

A=19,250 (18,819). T=2:31.

Red Wings 2, Blue Jackets 1									
Columbus	1	0	0	1					
Detroit	0	1	1	2					

First Period—1, Columbus, Vermette 11 (Voracek), 12:10.

Second Period—2, Detroit, Bertuzzi 11 (Datsyuk, Lidstrom), 6:38 (pp).

Third Period—3, Detroit, Bertuzzi 12 (Rafalski, Lidstrom), 2:44.

Shots on Goal—Columbus 15-5-9=29. Detroit 6-11-10=27.

Power-play opportunities—Columbus 0 of 4; Detroit 1 of 5.

Goalsies—Columbus, Garon 4-5-2 (28 shots-25 saves). Detroit, Howard 12-8-1 (29-28).

A=20,066 (20,066). T=2:12.

Flyers 4, Hurricanes 3 (SO)

Philadelphia 2 0 1 0-4									
Carolina 0 0 3 0-3									

Philadelphia won shootout 2-0

First Period—1, Philadelphia, Richards 16 (Giroux), 9:47. 2, Philadelphia, Carter 13 (Hartnell, Coburn), 13:55.

Third Period—3, Philadelphia, Briere 12 (Timonen, Pronger), 9:00 (pp). 4, Carolina, Jokinen 9 (Staal, Cullen), 9:24. 5, Carolina, Sutter 9 (Pitkanen, C.Ward), 15:58 (pp). 6, Carolina, Jokinen 10 (Staal, Cullen), 16:47.

Shootout—Philadelphia 2 (Briere G, Richards G), Carolina 0 (Ruutu NG, Jokinen NG).

Shots on Goal—Philadelphia 9-9-11-7=36. Carolina 11-7-20-2=40.

Power-play opportunities—Philadelphia 1 of 3; Carolina 1 of 5.

Goalsies—Philadelphia, Leighton 3-4-0 (40 shots-37 saves). Carolina, C.Ward 4-13-5 (36-33).

A=16,288 (18,680). T=2:41.

Islanders 3, Rangers 2 (OT)

N.Y. Islanders 1 1 0 1-3									
N.Y. Rangers 0 0 2 0-2									

First Period—1, N.Y. Islanders, Nielsen 6 (Okposo, Bailey), 7:45.

Second Period—2, N.Y. Islanders, Combeau 4 (Okposo, Gervais), 12:21 (sh).

Third Period—3, N.Y. Islanders, Dubinsky 5 (Drury, Rozsival), 6:07. 4, N.Y. Rangers, Dubinsky 6 (Callahan, Rozsival), 19:13.

Overtime—5, N.Y. Islanders, Okposo 6 (Nielsen, Streit), 4:13.

Shots on Goal—N.Y. Islanders 5-9-5-3=22. N.Y. Rangers 5-15-15-3=38.

Power-play opportunities—N.Y. Islanders 0 of 3; N.Y. Rangers 0 of 3.

Goalsies—N.Y. Islanders, Roloson 13-7-5 (38 shots-36 saves). N.Y. Rangers, Lundqvist 16-13-4 (22-19).

A=18,200 (18,200). T=2:33.

Capitals 4, Devils 1

New Jersey 1 0 0-1									
Washington 2 1 1-4									

First Period—1, Washington, Ovechkin 25 (Backstrom, Gervais), 2: Washington, Bradley 7 (Steckel, Alzner), 13:54. 3, New Jersey, Pelley 2 (Pikkariainen), 17:18.

Second Period—4, Washington, Backstrom 15 (Semin, Ovechkin), 9:52.

Third Period—5, Washington, Green 8 (Ovechkin, Backstrom), 3:39.

Shots on Goal—New Jersey 15-5-10=30. Washington 14-19-7=40.

Power-play opportunities—New Jersey 0 of 4; Washington 0 of 2.

Goalsies—New Jersey, Brodeur 23-9-1 (40 shots-36 saves). Washington, Neuvirth 3-2-0 (30-29).

A=18,277 (18,277). T=2:21.

Lightning 4, Thrashers 3

Atlanta 1 1 1-3									
Tampa Bay 1 1 1-4									

First Period—1, Atlanta, Antropov 10 (Kovalchuk, Afanogenov), 11:48. 2, Tampa Bay, Downie 7 (Lecavalier, Ohlund), 13:34.

Second Period—3, Tampa Bay, Lundin 1 (Lecavalier), 4:44. 4, Atlanta, Reasoner 3 (Hainsey, Bogosian), 16:54.

Third Period—5, Tampa Bay, Tanguay 5 (Downie, Lecavalier), 5:04. 6, Tampa Bay, Malone 19 (St. Louis, Stamkos), 6:45. 7, Atlanta, Kovalchuk 22 (Antropov, Bogosian), 17:18.

Shots on Goal—Atlanta 6-15-6=27. Tampa Bay 14-13-3=34.

Power-play opportunities—Atlanta 0 of 3; Tampa Bay 0 of 1.

Goalsies—Atlanta, Pavlec 9-10-3 (34 shots-30 saves). Tampa Bay, Smith 7-10-5 (27-24).

A=15,437 (19,758). T=2:31.

Wild 4, Blues 3

St. Louis 0 1 1-3									
Minnesota 1 0 3-4									

First Period—1, Minnesota, Latendresse 7 (Zanon, Zidlicky), 14:55.

Second Period—2, St. Louis, McDonald 10 (Brewer, Boyes), 12:52.

Third Period—3, Minnesota, Hnidy 2 (Miettinen, Koivu), 2:29. 4, Minnesota, Johnson 3, 8:59. 5, St. Louis, Perron 11 (Berglund, Cronin), 13:04. 6, Minnesota, Latendresse 8 (Zidlicky, Banger), 16:19. 7, St. Louis, Berglund 6 (Tkachuk, Boyes), 18:20.

Shots on Goal—St. Louis 8-4-6=18. Minnesota 9-5-6=20.

Power-play opportunities—St. Louis 0 of 4; Minnesota 0 of 4.

Goalsies—St. Louis, Mason 11-11-4 (20 shots-16 saves). Minnesota, Backstrom 17-12-3 (18-15).

A=18,554 (18,064). T=2:17.

Blackhawks 4, Predators 1

Chicago 1 3 0-4									
Nashville 0 1 0-1									

First Period—1, Chicago, Byfuglien 11 (Toews), 9:44 (pp).

Second Period—2, Nashville, Erat 13, 7:38. 3, Chicago, Kane 13 (Toews, Barkov), 12:26. 4, Chicago, add 6 (Koeckey, Campbell), 13:36. 5, Chicago, Sharp 12 (Koeckey, Keith), 18:47

NHL roundup

Marleau hits milestone in Sharks' victory

Nets 300th, 301st goals

The Associated Press

SAN JOSE, Calif. — Patrick Marleau got a milestone out of the way early — and the San Jose Sharks made quick work of the Anaheim Ducks, too.

Marleau scored his 300th and 301st career goals in the first 15:19 and the Sharks beat Anaheim 5-2 on Saturday night.

"Paddy was in the right spot at the right time," Joe Thornton said. "He's playing great. Three hundred goals is quite an accomplishment."

Marleau scored the milestone goal at 2:15 of the first period, taking a pass from Dany Heatley and drilling the puck past goalie Jean-Sebastien Giguere.

The former Sharks captain added No. 301 on a power play with 4:41 left in the period when he controlled Heatley's rebound and beat Giguere. Marleau has scored four of his 25 goals this season against Anaheim. It was his 38th two-goal game.

"The first was just driving the net up the middle and somehow the puck found its mark," Marleau said. "The second one came with me standing front of Giguere and there was guy in front of me and already knew he was screened so I just jumped over to the side and Joe and Dany did the rest."

The Sharks, tied with Chicago for the Western Conference lead, have won four straight, while the Ducks have lost two in row. Before the Sharks (23-8-7) went on their winning streak, they suffered through a five-game winless streak.

Coach Todd McLellan credited a good morning skate with giving the team an edge in its first game in three days.

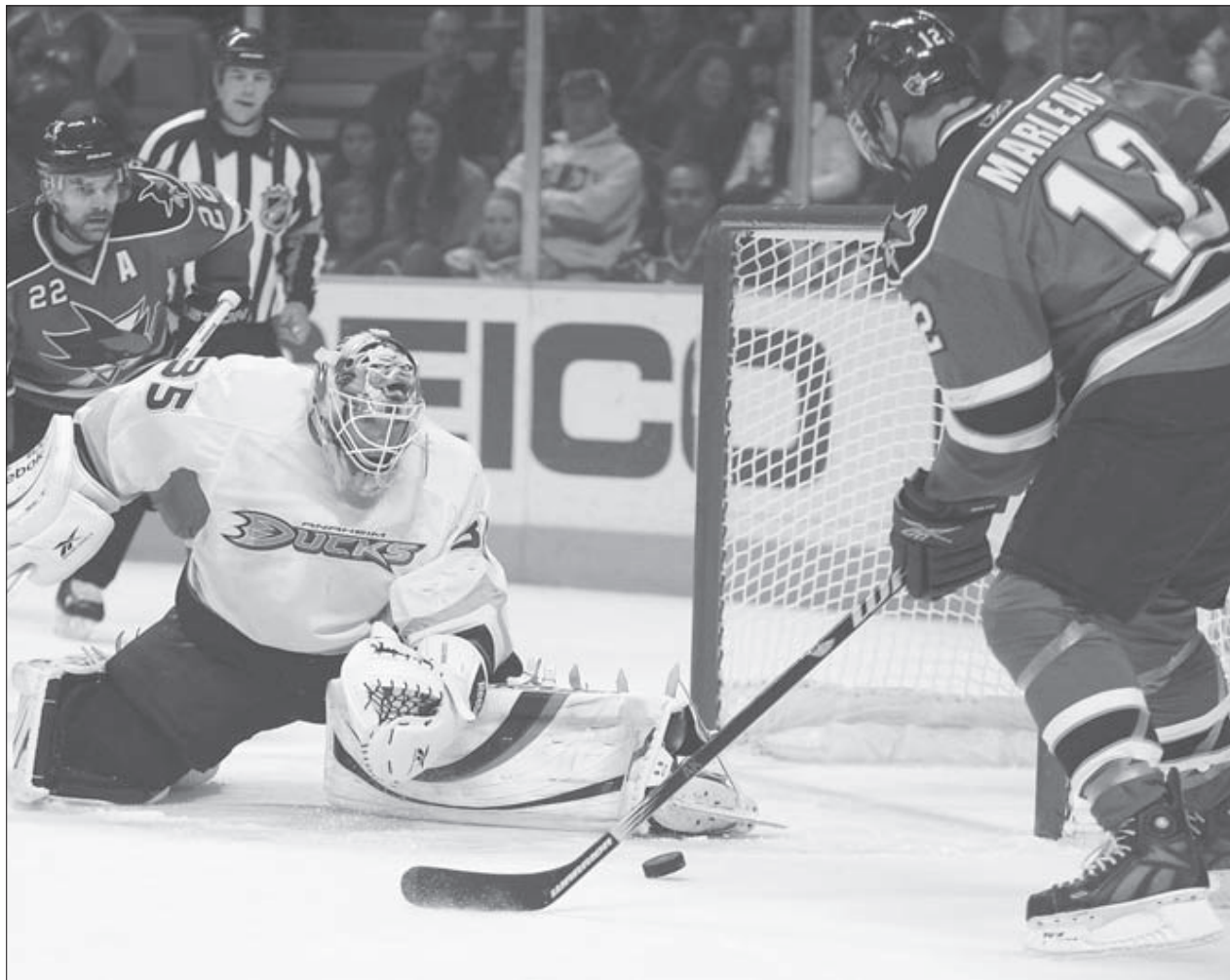
"When you have a three-day hiatus, you need to get back to the competitive part of the game," McLellan said. "It gave us a chance to wake up a little bit this morning and get our legs. It left us with a pretty good feeling heading into the night."

Heatley added his 23rd goal of the season at 7:41 of the second period, beating Giguere off his own rebound. Thornton assisted on the first three goals to push his NHL-leading total to 44. He also leads the league with 54 points.

"My goal was just a broken play," Heatley said. "I tried to shoot it through the 'D' and it just came back to me and I shot it again. It hit him in the face and came right back to me."

San Jose made it 5-0 with two goals midway through the second. Ryane Clowe's shot caromed in off Anaheim's Scott Niedermayer on a power play, and Jamie McGinn scored 15 seconds later.

Although Anaheim outshot San Jose 32-25, it continued to struggle getting goals. In their last three games, the Ducks have taken 130 shots and scored just



TONY AVELAR/AP

San Jose center Patrick Marleau, right, scores a goal past Anaheim goalie Jean-Sebastien Giguere as San Jose's Dan Boyle, left, looks on during the first period of Saturday's game in San Jose, Calif. Marleau scored his 300th and 301st career goals in the Sharks' 5-2 victory.

six goals.

"We had all kinds of shots," Anaheim coach Randy Carlyle said. "On one power play we had six scoring chances. We just didn't find a way to put it over the line. That's the difference with a 2-0 game. It makes it 2-1 and then we get back into it."

Anaheim's Kyle Chipchura broke up Evgeni Nabokov's bid for his 50th career shutout with 1:04 remaining in the second, and Bobby Ryan added a third-period goal for the Ducks.

Nabokov made 30 saves for his 20th victory of the season. Nabokov continues to be able to defend against teams that get off a lot of shots. Over his last four games, the San Jose goalie has made 131 saves on 138 shots.

Blackhawks 4, Predators 1: At Nashville, Tenn., Cristobal Huet made 25 saves, and Dustin Byfuglien, Patrick Kane, Andrew Ladd and Patrick Sharp scored for Chicago.

Jonathan Towses and Tomas Kopecky each had two assists for Western Conference-leading Chicago. Martin Erat scored for Nashville.

Coyotes 3, Kings 2: At Glendale, Ariz., Keith Yandle scored with 9:20 to go and Phoenix held on for its franchise record-tying

ninth straight home victory.

Adrian Aucoin and Martin Hanzal also scored for the Coyotes, who matched the franchise record set from Dec. 27, 1992, to Jan. 23, 1993, when the team was in Winnipeg. Phoenix has won six of its last eight overall.

Michal Handzus and Dustin Brown scored for Los Angeles.

Red Wings 2, Blue Jackets 1: Todd Bertuzzi scored twice, and Jimmy Howard made 28 saves in host Detroit's comeback victory.

Detroit, coming off consecutive shutout losses to Chicago, ended a three-game losing streak. Antoine Vermette scored for Columbus and Mathieu Garon stopped 25 shots. The Blue Jackets have lost nine straight.

Islanders 3, Rangers 2 (OT): At New York, Kyle Okposo scored 4:13 into overtime to lift the Islanders and snap the Rangers' winning streak at four games.

Okposo earned the primary assists on goals by Frans Nielsen and Blake Comeau, then fired a drive from the blue line that caromed off the post and in behind Henrik Lundqvist in overtime. Dwayne Roloson made 36 saves for the victory. Brandon Dubinsky scored twice in the third period for the Rangers to force overtime.

Canadiens 3, Maple Leafs 2 (OT): Jaroslav Halak made 47 saves, and Andrei Kostitsyn scored 34 seconds into overtime to lift visiting Montreal over Toronto.

Scott Gomez and Tomas Plekanec also scored for Montreal. Ian White and Jason Blake scored for Toronto.

Flyers 4, Hurricanes 3 (SO): At Raleigh, N.C., Mike Richards and Danny Briere scored in the shootout to give Philadelphia coach Peter Laviolette a victory against his former club.

Richards, Briere and Jeff Carter scored in regulation for the Flyers, and Michael Leighton stopped his former Carolina teammates in the shootout.

Jussi Jokinen scored twice, and Brandon Sutter added a goal for Carolina.

Senators 3, Sabres 2 (SO): At Buffalo, N.Y., Alex Kovalev and Mike Fisher scored in the shootout to help Ottawa beat Buffalo for the seventh straight time.

Ryan Shannon and Chris Neil scored in regulation, and Pascal Leclaire made 20 saves for the Senators. Thomas Vanek and Jason Pominville scored for Buffalo.

Wild 4, Blues 3: At St. Paul, Minn., Guillaume Latendresse

scored twice, Shane Hnidy and Kim Johnsson added goals, and Niklas Backstrom stopped 15 shots for Minnesota.

Andy McDonald, David Perron and Patrik Berglund scored for St. Louis.

Lightning 4, Thrashers 3: At Tampa, Fla., Alex Tanguay scored his first goal in 19 games, Mike Lundin had his first NHL goal, and Vincent Lecavalier added three assists for Tampa Bay.

Ryan Malone and Steve Downie also scored for the Lightning. Nik Antropov, Marty Reasoner and Ilya Kovalchuk scored for Atlanta.

Canucks 4, Oilers 1: At Vancouver, British Columbia, Roberto Luongo made 24 saves, and Daniel Sedin had a power-play goal and two assists for Vancouver.

Henrik Sedin had a goal and an assist, and Ryan Kesler and Christian Ehrhoff also scored for the Canucks. Ryan Potulny scored for Edmonton.

Avalanche 4, Stars 1: At Denver, Peter Budaj made 39 saves for Colorado, Chris Stewart scored twice, and Chris Durno had his first NHL goal.

Milan Hejduk also scored. Steve Ott scored for Dallas.

COLLEGE FOOTBALL



TONY GUTIERREZ/AP

Oklahoma defensive tackle Gerald McCoy, dragging down BYU running back Bryan Kariyaduring, says he's ready to jump to the NFL, and he's thinking of more than himself. McCoy's mother died of brain aneurysm complications before he got a chance to play at Oklahoma. Her dreams of opening a shelter for the homeless live on because of her son, who is projected by many to go in the top 10 of the NFL Draft.

Sooner plans to honor mother

DT McCoy has dreams other than playing in the NFL

By JEFF LATZKE
The Associated Press

Gerald McCoy thinks he's ready to make the jump to the NFL. But along with his football future, McCoy has someone else's dreams on his mind. McCoy lost his mother, Patricia, to complications from a brain aneurysm before he even got a chance to play at Oklahoma. Yet her dreams live on because of her son.

When McCoy walked across a stage to get his degree from Oklahoma last week, it was the fulfillment of one of Patricia's wishes.

He could have left school early after the Sooners played for the national championship last year, but the jovial defensive tackle stuck around.

"The main reason I came back is because of her. I think she'd be proud that I stayed in school to work to get my degree because what's she's all about is school," McCoy said. "She loved football but she could care less whether I played football or not. She wanted me to get my degree and she knew how important school was."

McCoy has another mission beyond getting his degree and playing pro football. He recalls driving around with his mother one day when they passed a shelter and she told him how she wanted to build one of her own. She even had a plot of land picked out to build it. She only needed the means to buy it and make it happen.

McCoy envisions it as a place for the home-

less, people out on the street with nowhere to turn.

"I've known people, they went to my high school, who had kids and they just couldn't afford to live where they stay," McCoy said. "They got evicted and needed somewhere to go for a few days until they figure something out."

He wants to help, and his success at Oklahoma has opened the door to do just that. McCoy was the USA Today defensive player of the year in high school and lived up to his billing as a dominant force in the middle of the Sooners front line.

McCoy became perhaps the most vocal leader of a unit that ranks seventh in the nation in scoring and total defense. And he went beyond that: Coach Bob Stoops told of how, after playing every defensive snap in a game, he'd return on Mondays to do his assigned running.

He'd then lead the charge when it was time for the offensive linemen — not even his personnel group — to run.

"Gerald has been an amazing individual and young man to be around here for four years. He lifts everybody up he's around," Stoops said.

"He's been an amazing leader. Not many guys through here as a sophomore and junior are captains."

"I could go on and on for an hour, not even talking about his ability on the field. And then you put him on the field, and he has the strength and quickness to be such a special player."

A likely first-round pick — and projected by many experts to go in the top 10 — McCoy could soon have the means to make another of his mother's dreams a reality. He announced last week that he would skip his senior year with the Sooners (7-5) to head to the NFL, making the Dec. 31 Sun Bowl against Stanford (8-4) his last college game.

"Once she passed away and then I started to see where I might be able to go, I always said to myself, 'If I get a chance to get a little bit of money, I'm going to do that for her and put it in her name,'" McCoy said.

"It's just something I always wanted to do because she was so passionate about it. She was all about people, just like me. That's just something I want to do for her."

McCoy said he's started examining the possibilities and talking to people about how he would go about building the shelter, which he plans to build in his hometown of Oklahoma City. But, he says, "that'll be in the future."

Until then, he's going to keep enjoying the game he learned to love from his father, Gerald, and the same game that could allow him to honor his mother's wishes.

"My father always told me, 'Have as much fun as you can while you're in college because you only get it once. You don't get it back.' My mother always used to tell me, 'Why not have fun while you've got the opportunity?' So, that's what I did. I tried to make the best of it," McCoy said. "I enjoyed college while I had it, and I've had a lot of fun."

"I'm going to miss college, but I think I'm ready to move on."

Meyer: Persistent headaches

MEYER, FROM BACK PAGE

advised him to stop coaching, Meyer again declined to answer.

When asked what changed his mind, Meyer said, "The love that I have for each of these players."

Meyer is married with three children — the oldest recently started college at Georgia Tech.

Foley said when he went to sleep Saturday night he did not think there was any chance Meyer would change his mind.

"It was a long night for everybody in Gator nation," Foley said. "The intent here is to make sure Urban goes and deals with the issues we discussed last night."

Gators quarterback Tim Tebow said he and several of his teammates cried when they found out Meyer was stepping down Saturday and were elated when he told them he changed his mind.

"We want him to do what's best for him," Tebow said. "We want him to get himself right, and when he's right then come back to coaching, then get back into ball." Tebow will play his last collegiate game in the Sugar Bowl against unbeaten Cincinnati, which will be led by an interim coach. Brian Kelly left the Bearcats this month to take over at Notre Dame.

It sounds as if Florida won't have to worry about playing games with an interim coach any time soon. Meyer is 56-10 with Florida, including 32-8 in the SEC and a school-record 22-game winning streak that was snapped by the Crimson Tide in the conference title game Dec. 5.

Last month, Sports Illustrated chronicled Meyer's coaching career and reported that he suffered from persistent headaches caused by a cyst that becomes inflamed by stress, rage and excitement. Meyer told the magazine that since the diagnosis in the early 2000s he has tried to stay composed during games.

A tireless recruiter and creative motivator, Meyer came to Florida from Utah in the fall of 2004 amid speculation he would end up at Notre Dame. Meyer brought most of his staff with him — some of whom worked with him at Bowling Green (2001-02) and Utah (2003-04). Together, they restored the program to national prominence two years later with the school's second national championship, upsetting Ohio State 41-14. They won another title last January by beating Oklahoma 24-14.

With just about his entire team returning this fall, Meyer spent all season under intense pressure and sky-high expectations. He said he welcomed it as the defending national champions tried to become just the second team in the past 14 years to repeat. But the season was far from smooth. Florida dealt with distraction after distraction, prompting Meyer to call it "the year of stuff."

"I had a 30-year coaching career in nine years," Meyer said. "You just can't do that."

USC beats BC, puts positive ending on disappointing year

No. 17 Pittsburgh 19, North Carolina 17: At Charlotte, N.C., Dion Lewis rushed for 159 yards and a touchdown to pass Tony Dorsett as Pittsburgh's top freshman rusher, and Dan Hutchins kicked a 33-yard field goal with 52 seconds left to give the Panthers a

DeQuan Bembry's interception with 40 seconds left sealed the victory for Marshal, which led by three touchdowns midway through the second quarter.



Southern California safety Drew McAllister breaks up a pass intended for Boston College wide receiver Clyde Lee during the fourth quarter of the Emerald Bowl on Saturday night. Southern Cal, which lost three of its last five regular-season games and fell out of the national rankings for the first time since 2001, won 24-13.

American Vehicles For America's Heroes™

www.encs.com

The 2010 Model Year Chrysler Review Book Has Come In!

Jeep

RAM

DODGE

To Pick Up a Copy, You Have To Come In Too.*

Visit ENCS for exclusive benefits, protections,
guarantees and savings up to **\$5,000****
available only to military serving overseas.



*WHILE SUPPLIES LAST. *Rebate accurate at time of printing and subject to change at any time. All illustrations and specifications are to the best of our knowledge correct as of the date of publication. They are subject to changes made by the manufacturer and the laws or regulations of any federal, state or local government agency. All programs and guarantees are subject to terms and conditions. Visit www.enxcs.com or see your sales representative for complete details. Chrysler Group LLC is an authorized contractor of AAFES and NEXCOM. Exchange New Car Sales is an authorized distributor to sell and distribute Chrysler vehicles. This advertisement does not express or imply endorsement by AAFES, NEXCOM, the DOD components, or the Federal Government and is not sponsored by them. (C 122)

NFL: WEEK 16

Moore, Panthers embarrass Giants

By TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. — Matt Moore and the Carolina Panthers turned the New York Giants' farewell to Giants Stadium into one of the ugliest moments in franchise history.

Playing in front of Lawrence Taylor — possibly their greatest player — and knowing they still had a shot at a fifth straight playoff berth, the Giants (8-7) embarrassed themselves against the Panthers, a team with nothing at stake. Moore threw three touchdown passes and Jonathan Stewart rushed for a career-best 209 yards as the Panthers (7-8) shredded New York's defense with scores on six of their first seven possessions in a 41-9 victory before a disgusted final sellout crowd Sunday.

The Giants' playoffs chances are microscopic. After opening the season 5-0, New York would have to beat Minnesota next week and hope Dallas loses its final two games, starting on Sunday night against Washington.

Can you say wishing thinking? Giants fans are skeptical: After booing their defense most of the day, many left the stadium well before the game ended.

Stewart ran for a 29-yard touchdown and set up another score by Brad Hoover with a long run. The Panthers forced three turn-



Carolina defensive end Julius Peppers (90) reacts after sacking New York Giants quarterback Eli Manning during the second quarter of Sunday's game in East Rutherford, N.J. Carolina won the game 41-9.

overs in their third victory in four games for coach John Fox, whose future remains cloudy.

Eli Manning threw a 2-yard

touchdown pass to Steve Smith and Lawrence Tynes kicked a 40-yard field goal for the Giants, who didn't score until Carolina

built a 31-0 lead early in the third quarter. Manning finished 29-for-43 for 296 yards and two interceptions.

Scoreboard

American Conference

	East				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
x-New England	10	5	0	.667	400 251
N.Y. Jets	7	7	0	.500	282 221
Miami	7	8	0	.467	336 360
Buffalo	5	10	0	.333	228 319
South					
x-Indianapolis	14	0	0	1.000	394 248
Houston	8	7	0	.533	354 306
Jacksonville	7	8	0	.467	273 357
Tennessee	7	8	0	.467	337 389
North					
x-Cincinnati	10	5	0	.667	305 254
Baltimore	8	7	0	.533	370 248
Pittsburgh	8	7	0	.533	338 300
Cleveland	4	11	0	.267	222 358
West					
x-San Diego	12	3	0	.800	431 300
Denver	8	6	0	.571	275 250
Oakland	5	10	0	.333	184 358
Kansas City	3	12	0	.200	250 400

National Conference

	East				
	W	L	T	Pct	PF PA
y-Philadelphia	10	4	0	.714	399 286
Dallas	9	5	0	.643	320 250
N.Y. Giants	8	7	0	.533	395 383
Washington	4	10	0	.286	246 296
South					
x-New Orleans	13	2	0	.867	500 318
Atlanta	8	7	0	.533	343 315
Carolina	7	8	0	.467	292 298
Tampa Bay	3	12	0	.200	234 380
North					
x-Minnesota	11	3	0	.786	396 269
y-Green Bay	10	5	0	.667	428 290
Chicago	5	9	0	.357	254 322
Detroit	2	12	0	.143	233 437
West					
x-Arizona	9	5	0	.643	337 282
San Francisco	6	8	0	.429	282 269
Seattle	5	10	0	.333	267 373
St. Louis	1	13	0	.071	159 377

x-clinched division
y-clinched playoff spot

Friday's games

San Diego 42, Tennessee 17

Sunday's games

Atlanta 31, Buffalo 0
Houston 27, Miami 20
Green Bay 48, Seattle 10
Carolina 41, N.Y. Giants 9
Pittsburgh 23, Baltimore 20
Tampa Bay 20, New Orleans 17, OT
Cleveland 23, Oakland 9
Cincinnati 17, Kansas City 10
New England 35, Jacksonville 7
Detroit at San Francisco
St. Louis at Arizona
N.Y. Jets at Indianapolis
Denver at Philadelphia
Dallas at Washington
Monday's game
Minnesota at Chicago

Roundup

Buccaneers hand Saints second straight loss

The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Carnell Williams had 129 yards rushing and Connor Barth kicked a 47-yard field goal in overtime, lifting the Tampa Bay Buccaneers to a stunning 20-17 victory over the New Orleans Saints on Sunday.

New Orleans was heavily favored and could have wrapped up home-field advantage throughout the NFC playoffs with a victory, but instead dropped a second straight game at home after opening the season 13-0.

Williams had a 23-yard touchdown run in the fourth quarter and Michael Spurlock's 77-yard punt return tied it, completing a comeback from 17 points down in the first half.

The Saints had a chance to win in the final seconds of regulation, but Garrett Hartley missed a 37-yard field goal. Tampa Bay (3-12) then won the coin toss to open overtime and scored soon after.

Patriots 35, Jaguars 7: At Foxborough, Mass., Tom Brady threw four touchdown passes, three to Randy Moss, and the young defense put together its third straight solid game as New England beat Jacksonville, locking up a playoff berth and further dimming the Jaguars' slim playoff chances.

For the Patriots (10-5), it was another encouraging outing in what has been an inconsistent season. They clinched the AFC East title after missing the playoffs last season for the first time since 2002 despite an 11-5 record. And they did it in a one-sided manner, just like most of their games in the 2007 season when they lost the Super Bowl to the New York Giants 17-14 on a last-minute touchdown.

Bengals 17, Chiefs 10: At Cincinnati, Carson Palmer's touchdown pass to Chad Ochocinco completed a 98-yard drive in the closing minutes, clinching the AFC North championship for Cincinnati at the end of a rough week.

The Bengals (10-5) moved into the playoffs for only the second time in the past 19 years after dealing with the death of receiver Chris Henry. The teary practices and locker-room grief seemed to show against the Chiefs (3-12), who stayed close in a mistake-filled game.

One good drive at the end was enough.

Falcons 31, Bills 3: At Atlanta, Matt Ryan threw three touchdown passes, including a 42-yarder to Roddy White on Atlanta's first play from scrimmage, and the

Falcons were never challenged in their victory over Buffalo.

Buffalo's Terrell Owens became the sixth player in NFL history with 1,000 career receptions. He reached the milestone with an 8-yard pass from Brian Brohm in the second quarter.

It was a rare highlight for the Bills (5-10), who were held to 178 yards, including a season-low 40 yards rushing.

The Falcons (8-7) led 10-0 before adding two third-quarter touchdowns. Ryan completed a 12-yard touchdown pass to Marty Booker and defensive end Lawrence Sidbury returned a fumble recovery 11 yards for a 24-0 lead.

Ryan added a 5-yard scoring pass to White in the fourth quarter.

Texans 27, Dolphins 20: At Miami, Houston raced to an early 27-point lead, then held on to beat Miami.

The Texans (8-7) scored on their first five possessions and won despite being outscored 20-0 in the final 31 minutes. Houston kept alive its slim hopes of making the playoffs for the first time, while defending AFC East champion Miami (7-8) was all but eliminated.

Given the stakes, Miami seemed shockingly listless at the

outset. The ball bounced off Dolphins receivers, Texans bounced off Miami tacklers, and Houston's Matt Schaub repeatedly found receivers wide open.

Packers 48, Seahawks 10: At Green Bay, Wis., the Green Bay Packers are going back to the playoffs, forcing four interceptions by Matt Hasselbeck to beat Seattle — then getting a big boost from Carolina.

The victory, combined with the New York Giants' blowout loss to Carolina, put the Packers (10-5) back in the playoffs after going 6-10 last season and limping off to a disappointing 4-4 record this year. The Panthers beat the Giants 41-9.

It was Hasselbeck's second straight four-interception game in what is shaping up as a miserable season for the Seahawks (5-10), who have scored a combined 24 points in three straight losses.

Steelers 23, Ravens 20: At Pittsburgh, Jeff Reed's 38-yard field goal put Pittsburgh ahead with 5:25 remaining and the Steelers finally managed to hold a fourth-quarter lead, beating division rival Baltimore to remain in playoff contention and further jumble the AFC playoff race.

The Steelers (8-7), their season seemingly ended by a late-sea-

son five-game losing streak, won their second in a row and will go into the final weekend of the season with a chance to sneak into the playoffs if they can win at Miami and get some help from other teams.

Joe Flacco threw two touchdown passes to Todd Heap, but the Ravens (8-7) — who could have clinched a wild-card spot with a victory and losses by two other contenders — now face a win-or-else game at Oakland next Sunday although they retain the tiebreaker against the Steelers.

Browns 23, Raiders 9: At Cleveland, Jerome Harrison had 148 yards rushing as Cleveland won its third straight game, over Oakland, extending a surprising streak that coach Eric Mangini can use to strengthen his case to Mike Holmgren that he deserves to remain as Cleveland's coach.

With consecutive victories over Pittsburgh, Kansas City and Oakland, the Browns (4-11) have their first three-game winning streak since 2007 and only their third since 1999. Holmgren, who is expected to be introduced as Cleveland's team president this week, may have to factor Cleveland's late-season surge into whether he retains Mangini, whose team opened the season 1-11.

SPORTS



PANTHERS ROAR
Moore, Carolina
humble Giants
NFL Week 16, Page 31

COLLEGE FOOTBALL: URBAN MEYER'S FUTURE

Meyer's about-face



ROGELIO V. SOLIS/AP

Urban Meyer, who will take time off from coaching Florida, has won two national championships since taking over the Gators program for the 2005 season.

Urban Meyer by the numbers

2001 — Bowling Green, 8-3
2002 — Bowling Green, 9-3
2003 — Utah, 10-2
2004 — Utah, 12-0
2005 — Florida, 9-3
2006 — Florida-x, 13-1
2007 — Florida, 9-4
2008 — Florida-x, 13-1
2009 — Florida, 12-1
Totals: 95-18
x-national champion

Gators coach to take leave, not quit

BY MARK LONG
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Florida football coach Urban Meyer is taking an indefinite leave of absence instead of resigning and expects to be on the sideline leading the Gators when next season opens.

"I do in my gut believe that will happen," Meyer said Sunday at a Sugar Bowl news conference.

Offensive coordinator Steve Addazio will run the team during Meyer's absence, but Meyer will be the coach against No. 4 Cincinnati on New Year's Day.

"It's full speed ahead. We're going to do everything possible to win this game," Meyer said.

Less than 24 hours after resigning because of health concerns, Meyer changed his mind. He said he was offered and encouraged to take a

leave of absence earlier in the week by the university president. Sunday, after conferring with athletic director Jeremy Foley and his family, he "accepted the offer to improve my health."

Meyer, 45, said being with his players at a "spirited practice" Sunday morning persuaded him not to resign.

"To not try would not be the right thing to do," he said.

On Saturday night, Meyer shocked college football when he said he was stepping down after five seasons as Gators coach.

After the Southeastern Conference championship game three weeks ago, Meyer spent several hours in a Gainesville, Fla., hospital because of chest pains.

Meyer said Sunday he had experienced similar problems at times this season but had not had a heart attack. He would not elaborate on his physical condition. When asked if doctors

SEE MEYER ON PAGE 28

*"The love
that I
have for
each of
these
players."*

Urban Meyer
on what changed
his mind about
not quitting Florida